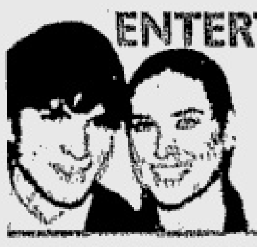


ENTERTAINMENT / A28
Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher wed

▪ SPORTS / A22
US golfers reclaim Presidents Cup

▪ BUSINESS / B1
Vehicle insurance fraud alarms government

▪ LIFESTYLE / C1
What type of overeater are you?

Political uncertainty shaking business confidence, says poll

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE POLITICAL TURMOIL SURROUNDING President Macapagal-Arroyo is taking its toll on the operations of nearly seven out of 10 local enterprises, according to a business confidence survey by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

POLITICAL/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Piranha shipment seized; one bites inspector's finger

By Nikko Dizon

THE INVERTED V-SHAPED wound on fisheries quarantine inspector Mario Trio's left ring finger is his reminder of the viciousness of piranhas.

PIRANHA/ A18

MASKI DAING NA PIRANHA PANGIT!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, September 27, 2005 ★★ 40 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 291 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Where are ballot boxes?

Loren says they are missing

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE BALLOT boxes gone?"

Sixto Brillantes, a lawyer of former Sen. Loren Legarda, raised the question after Congress failed to produce yesterday all the 200 ballot boxes used in three Mindanao provinces during the 2004 election.

The ballot boxes were the subject of Legarda's petition for a recount of votes in contested areas before the Supreme Court.

Legarda, running mate of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., had filed an election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro whom she accused of cheating and massive fraud.

Only 48 ballot boxes containing election returns (ERs) and five boxes containing certificates of canvass (COCs) were turned over by House Deputy Secretary General Artemio Adasa Jr., custodian of the ballot boxes during the congressional canvassing of votes for the May 2004 presidential and vice presidential elections.

The House of Representatives had been ordered by the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) to turn over the ballot boxes to begin the recount of votes for the vice presidential race.

De Castro shrugged off Legarda's accusation, saying it was up to the PET to resolve the issues raised by the former senator.

He said he had no idea why Congress was not able to produce some of the ballot boxes. "Let Congress answer for it because the ballot boxes are in its custody. It would be unfair

WHERE/ A6

1st Runner-Up
MISS
'05
'05

2005 MISS International winner Miss Philippines Precious Lara Quigaman (center) receives kisses from the first runner-up, Miss Dominican Republic Yadira Geara (left), and second runner-up, Miss Finland Susanna Laine, at the beauty pageant in Tokyo on Sept. 26. Fifty-two beauties competed for the crown. AFP

RP beauty is Miss International

TRIUMPH AFTER TRAGEDY.

Four months after her father died in a road accident, Binibinang Pilipinas Precious Lara Quigaman last night won the Miss International title, the first Filipino in 26 years to capture the crown.

Quigaman, a 22-year-old fashion model, cried for joy as her name was called. She is the 4th Filipino to win the Miss International competition. The last Filipino to win it was Melanie Marquez in 1979.

The first Philippine entry to win the beauty title was Gemma Cruz in 1965. Then Aurora Pijuan captured it in 1970.

Quigaman won the right to represent the country in the Miss International contest when she won the Binibining Pilipinas pageant in March.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Quigaman "joins a long list of Filipinas who have brought our country honor and prestige, not only for their beauty but also for their intelligence, charm and grace."

Quigaman completed her studies in media production and communications at Filton College in the United Kingdom and she also took up a course in childhood and youth studies in Bristol.

Tragedy struck her family in May when her father died in a road accident in London. But even before the tragedy occurred, her father had told her that she would win. *Armin Adina; AP*

2 justice execs admit Congress OK needed

By Armand N. Nocum and Philip C. Tubeza

TWO OFFICIALS OF THE DEpartment of Justice (DOJ) tasked with studying a government takeover of strategic industries to address the oil crisis acknowledged that any takeover could proceed only upon the approval of Congress.

"We may need an enabling act from Congress," Benny Nicdao, chief of staff of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, said yesterday.

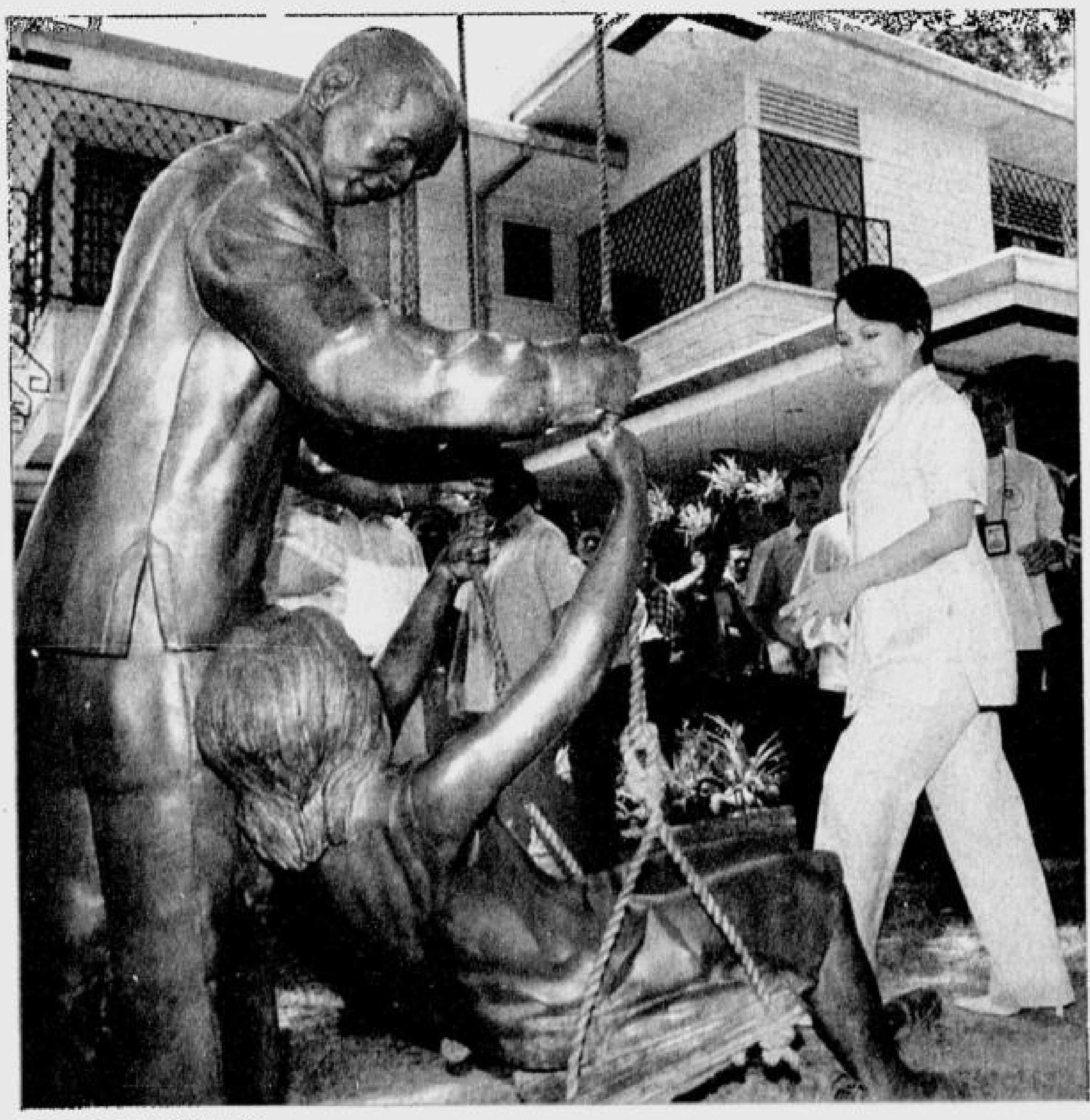
Nicdao and Jaime Umpa, provincial state prosecutor, said they were far from completing the study contrary to claims by the opposition that the government was set to implement emergency rule over the weekend based on a presidential proclamation that they had drafted.

2 JUSTICE/ A6

Surgery planned for Gonzales

IN A BULLETIN LAST NIGHT, the Philippine Heart Center said that following tests, it was found that Gonzales' condition was more critical. It recommended that he undergo a coronary bypass as soon as possible.

"He cannot tolerate any stress of whatever nature ... He will be placed on medications and (advised) to slow down on his activities," the bulletin said.



GIRL ON A SWING
President Macapagal-Arroyo turns nostalgic on Monday when she catches sight of the statue of her father Diosdado Macapagal pushing a little girl on a swing at the ancestral home of her grandparents in Timoga, Buru-un, Iligan City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Palace plans to challenge legality of Senate grilling

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG IS PLANNING TO put to a legal test the immunity of Cabinet secretaries from congressional grilling if the Senate blue ribbon committee insists on keeping National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales under its custody.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye disputed Fr. Joaquin Bernas' opinion that Malacañang could not invoke executive privilege, inter-departmental courtesy and national security in justifying Gonzales' refusal to explain to the panel a deal he signed on July 25 with a US lobby firm, Venable LLP.

Venable was to seek US funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's program to amend the Philippine Constitution. Critics have slammed the arrangement as an invitation for foreigners to intervene in the process.

"This case is untested," said Bunye. "Previous cases did not apply to any officer of Cabinet level. This is the first time this is

MALACAÑANG/ A18

BOAT PEOPLE

16-year stopover finally over

By Nikko Dizon

THEIR 16-YEAR STOPOVER IN the Philippines was finally over. But they had a dilemma: How could one fit 16 years of life—and all its memories—in two pieces of luggage and a carry-on bag?

But they did and the 229 Vietnamese boat people yesterday flew out of the Philippines on a chartered flight for the United States, where they hoped to be reunited with relatives and friends.

They represented the first batch of 1,600 stateless boat people on their way to their new homes in America after being stranded in the Philippines since 1989.

Some were taking children who were born in the Philippines and lack any memory of the country their parents fled more than a decade ago.

Before their chartered American Trans Air flight took off, many had to contend with the dilemma of travellers—what to do with excess baggage.

It was understandable. After all, all they were allowed to carry were two pieces of luggage at an allowable 23 kg each and a 5-kg carry-on bag.

"It must have been tough to decide which ones to bring and to leave," Patrick Corcoran, representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Manila, told the INQUIRER.

Corcoran said that, at the airport check-in counter, he saw a man dealing with an overweight bag.

The man fished out his thousand-page-plus Vietnamese-English dictio-

16-YEAR/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao, Eastern Visayas and extreme Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/27/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

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DepEd exec bucks ouster by Palace

By Alcuin Papa and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

I'M STAYING PUT.

This according to Department of Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, who was reportedly dismissed by Malacañang for refusing to honor three postdated checks issued to anti-impeachment Rep. Antonio M. Diaz for a scholarship program.

Luz said yesterday he could not be fired from the government service because he was a career executive service officer (CESO) with a regular item in the government plantilla.

"I have not resigned. The CSC (Civil Service Commission) has given its opinion that I cannot be terminated without cause because I am CESO," Luz said.

He said the CSC had also opined that the "thank you" note sent to him by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita did not constitute dismissal from the DepEd or the government service.

"The CSC said the note holds no water. Unless I see something else, I am not honoring it. As far as I know I have not received any orders from them (the Palace)," Luz said.

Earlier, Ermita had told reporters that a "thank you" letter had been sent to Luz, which apparently meant that it was time for Luz to pack up and leave the education department.

At yesterday's Palace news briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Luz had not been kicked out of office—he was merely being transferred to another department.

Bunye said Ermita met with Luz yesterday afternoon to discuss his status in government. The press secretary, however, did not say why Luz was being transferred and where his next assignment would be in the government.

Bunye was adamant that Luz had been neither removed nor terminated as payback for the unfavorable political stance of his brother, Makati Business Club spokesperson Guillermo "Bill" Luz, who has been outspoken in demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He also shot down allegations that Luz was being removed from office because he refused to honor three postdated checks that Malacañang had issued for the scholarship program of Diaz, who joined the majority in junking the impeachment complaint against the President.

Bunye promised to give details of Ermita's meeting with Luz, but as of press time, the press secretary had not provided any information.

Luz earlier said releasing the checks would have been a violation of government accounting rules and regulations.

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Position	Job Match Percent
LAWYER	82%
TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	81%
FINANCIAL MANAGER	80%
ADVERTISING/PROMOTIONS MANAGER	80%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	80%
GENERAL/OPERATIONS MANAGER	80%
COMPUTER HARDWARE SERVICING TECHNICIAN	80%
AUDITOR	79%
ACCOUNTANT	79%
REGISTERED NURSE	78%
SALES ENGINEER	76%
CALL CENTER SERVICE OFFICER	76%
LOAN OFFICER	76%
WEB DESIGNER	75%
SYSTEM ANALYST	75%
COPY WRITER	75%
SEGMENT PRODUCER/NEWSCASTER	74%
SALES MANAGER	72%
CHEMICAL ENGINEER	71%
MARKETING MANAGER	70%
PERSONNEL OFFICER	70%
MARKETING MANAGER	70%
LOGISTICIAN	70%
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST	69%
PROCESS ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR	68%
OFFICE SUPERVISOR	68%
SALES REPRESENTATIVE, MEDICAL	67%
WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR	65%
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER	64%
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	62%
SALESPERSON	60%
BUDGET ANALYST	60%
COMPUTER PROGRAMMER	58%
MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST	58%
COMPUTER OPERATOR	57%
COMPUTER SOFTWARE ENGINEER	57%
SECRETARY	57%
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE	56%
BOOKKEEPING/ACCOUNTING/AUDITING CLERK	53%
BILL/ACCOUNT COLLECTOR	53%
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ASST.	52%
TELEMARKETER	51%
OFFICE/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WORKER	51%
CLERK	51%
HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT	50%
NETWORK/COMPUTER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	50%
DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	50%

Source: Profiles XT/Career Coach

The computer-aided career guidance instrument compares the results of the student's evaluation with the requirements for a variety of job occupations. The percentages indicate the degree to which the student's results match each of the listed occupations

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Gov't can meet '06 budget sans VAT, say solons, execs

By Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN WITHOUT THE FULL IMplementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) and despite surging oil prices, the government can raise enough money to meet the requirements of the proposed P1.053 trillion national budget for 2006, congressional leaders and President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic managers said yesterday.

"Kayang-kaya (It can be done)," said Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, at the start of the public hearings on the budget.

The new VAT law could be deferred until 2006 with the Arroyo administration still generating enough revenues to fund its annual expenses and new projects, Andaya said, basing his optimism on foreign investment inflows, continued expansion of the call center business and the government's heightened efficiency in tax collection.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri and National Economic and Planning Director Augusto Santos also presented a vibrant outlook for the economy when they appeared before the committee to justify the budget, which is bigger than this year's budget of P918.6 billion by 14.7 percent or P134.6 billion.

Santos pointed out that even without the new VAT law, the economy performed well during the first half of the year.

"On the production side, growth was driven by a vibrant service sector and rising investments in mining," said Santos. He described the country as a "resilient performer," noting that the gross domestic product's 4.8-percent growth rate ranked fourth among eight Asian nations led by China.

"The financial and transportation, communication and storage sectors were the driving force in services expansion, while on the demand side, consumption is king," added Santos. He said he expects a "moderate growth" this year.

Neri said the government's reduced spending led to a "lower-than-target fiscal deficit" during the first half, and he expected expenditures for the rest of the year will be "within target."

But Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño did not share the administration's confidence and claimed that the proposed budget's macroeconomic assumptions were wrong.

"An overstated GDP forecast coupled with a conservative inflation rate, which is exactly the case here, can only result in a budget deficit bigger than what is presented," Casiño said.

He expected government to eventually borrow more and impose more taxes to fund the budget.

He said Malacañang's GDP growth forecast of between 5.3 percent and 6.1 percent for 2005 was higher than the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's 4.5 percent and the Asian Development Bank's 4.7 percent.

For 2006, the government's forecast is between 6.3 percent and 7.4 percent compared to the identical 4.8 percent forecast by the IMF-WB and the ADB, Casiño said, adding the government's inflation rate projections were also substantially lower.

One Aguirre twin takes first steps

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK—Clarence Aguirre, one of the formerly conjoined Filipino twins who survived a long series of delicate operations to separate him from his brother, Carl, has begun walking, Montefiore Medical Center officials said.

Carl is expected to follow in his brother's footsteps soon.

Montefiore spokesperson Steve Osborne confirmed Sunday that Clarence had begun walking on his own after "Dateline NBC" showed images of the 3-year-old, wearing a helmet, taking steps at Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla.

Doctors planned to detail the milestone and issue a broad medical update on the twins at a news conference Monday morning at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the Bronx.

Clarence's steps came about a year and a month after the climactic operation at Montefiore in which doctors separated the boys, who had been connected at the tops of their heads, by cutting through the small section of brain they shared.

Up until then, Carl and Clarence had been unable to sit up, stand straight or see each other's faces.

But they had progressed rapidly in almost all areas—speech is an exception—that by July, Clarence was striding so energetically that while holding a therapist's hand he once walked out of his pants and staffers had to find him a belt.

Doctors said the Aug. 4, 2004, separation was like a rebirth for the boys, who were in mortal danger throughout their infancy in the Philippines. Because they were limited to lying on their backs, their development was stunted and they were subjected to chronic pneumonia caused by inhaling food into their lungs.

The boys and their mother, Arlene Aguirre, came to New York in 2003 when Montefiore agreed to take the boys' case for free and Blythedale agreed to donate housing and therapy.

The Children's Hospital team of neurosurgeon Dr. James Goodrich and plastic surgeon Dr. David Staffenberg undertook a gradual approach to the separation, pushing apart the brains and dividing the blood vessels in four operations between October 2003 and August 2004. In between, the boys were given time to heal. It was a departure from the more common single marathon operation and has been widely hailed as a triumph. AP

Kin fight over wake site for Singapore chop-chop victim

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAMBANG, NUEVA VIZCAYA – SHE LEFT HER family for a foreign land so she could provide for their needs, was murdered in a gruesome manner with a long-time friend accused of the deed, and her remains were held abroad while Singapore police conducted an investigation.

Jane Parangan-Lapuebla was killed on Sept. 7 in Singapore where she had labored as a maid. It was only last Sunday, or three weeks later, that her remains, chopped to pieces, were returned home.

But even in death, Lapuebla could not seem to find repose from her tortuous saga. Yesterday her remains suffered further indignity as her relatives carried on a tug-of-war over where her wake should be held.

Scores of relatives and neighbors of Lapuebla's mother, Paulina, stopped the convoy carrying Jane's remains on the national highway in Barangay Almaguer North here at about 3:30 a.m..

The mother demanded that the remains be brought to her house, not to the house where Jane had lived with her husband, for the wake.

It took the intervention of Bambang Mayor Pepito Balgos to cut short what could have turned out to be a long and ugly row. The mayor managed to persuade the victim's husband, Crusaldo "Eddie" Lapuebla, 26, to agree to hold the wake for at least two days at his mother-in-law's house.

Regular prayer vigils had been conducted at the house since Lapuebla's death.

Lapuebla, according to Singapore police, was murdered by long-time friend and compatriot, Guen Aguilar, following a fight over money. Her body was dismembered with parts of it scattered along Singapore's Orchard Road and found by police on Sept. 10.

Aguilar, 29, was arrested and charged with the killing. She faces execution by hanging.

"I had to give in to settle the issue, so that my wife could finally be given peace," Eddie said in Ilocano.

Jane's remains, encased in a wooden box, were brought back to the country on Sunday night aboard a Singapore Airlines flight. On the plane aside from her husband were her mother and her aunt and surrogate mother, Sally Parangan.

From the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Jane's body was to be brought to their home in Barangay Tuao South in Bagabag town after Eddie decided that the wake would be held there.

"(Philippine embassy officials in Singapore) gave me the authority to decide where to bring my wife, and I chose that she be brought to Tuao because that was where we lived together before she left for Singapore," Eddie said.

But when the four-vehicle convoy reached the intersection to Almaguer North here, about 30 km from its destination, the road was blocked by about 100 residents, including Mayor Balgos, Eddie said.

Mayor Balgos said: "Some of the relatives were dismayed and even harangued Eddie for deciding to bring the body straight to Bagabag, without giving them the opportunity to have a peek at her remains. They felt that they were being deprived of their right to pay their last respects to Jane."

He said the relatives promised Eddie in writing that Jane's remains would be moved to Tuao South in Bagabag at 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

Interment has been set for Thursday. *With a report from Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

No Chinese funds used in relocation, says Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

NOT ONE CENTAVO FROM THE GOVERNment's Northrail loan contract with China is being spent on the relocation of squatter families from the right-of-way of the project.

This was according to Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) that is overseeing the relocation. His office had been accused of the anomalous use of the loan for the relocation project.

De Castro said the money being used to clear the Northrail right of way from Caloocan City to Malolos, Bulacan came from the national government through the National Housing Authority.

"HUDCC has nothing to do with the project or the loan. We have never been involved in the negotiations for the said loan," De Castro said.

He stressed that the relocation program was not covered by the loan contract.

He said the funds would be "bridge financed" with a loan from the National Development Co. with payment to be guaranteed from the annual releases to the NHA by the national government.

At the same time, De Castro said the relocation of affected families was on track.

The NHA has relocated 7,297 families from the Metro Manila alignment and 1,401 from the Bulacan alignment.

De Castro said that based on the Northrail project timetable, Malolos would be cleared of 11,477 families before the end of next month.

To ensure that the relocation sites were habitable and adequate, De Castro said he would personally visit the resettlement sites every week.

Reveal witnesses, Erap lawyers told

ACTING ON REPEATED COMPLAINTS BY THE prosecution that defense lawyers were making their lives difficult, the Sandiganbayan Special Division yesterday ordered former President Joseph Estrada's attorneys to submit the names of witnesses they intend to present at Wednesday's next hearing of the four-year-old plunder trial.

Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro reminded defense lawyers Jose Flaminiano and Rene Saguisag about their obligation to provide the prosecution, led by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, with a list of the witnesses they intend to present in court ahead of time.

The order came after Villa-Ignacio's repeated queries in open court as to the identities of the defense's next witnesses. Villa-Ignacio had protested that the defense's refusal to identify its next witnesses was a ploy to make it difficult for the prosecution to prepare the questions he and his colleagues would ask the witnesses on cross-examination.

Flaminiano denied the accusation, saying the defense was finding it difficult to convince some witnesses to testify for the former President. Some witnesses had filed motions to quash the subpoenas issued by the court for their appearance, he said.

But the defense has not run out of witnesses yet, Flaminiano added.

"We will surely top the 71 witnesses presented by the prosecution panel," he said, indicating the defense had at least 10 to 15 remaining witnesses, including the Philippine Star's Marichu Villanueva, who was presented as its 71st witness yesterday.

The fifth journalist to take the stand for the defense, Villanueva testified that she had written reports about Estrada's determination to eliminate the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

Villa-Ignacio dismissed the testimony as hearsay, therefore, irrelevant, but Flaminiano said it proved that the former President really wanted to eradicate jueteng by replacing it with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s "Bingo 2-Ball" game. Estrada is charged with, among other things, taking millions of pesos in payoffs from jueteng lords. *Nelson F. Flores*

"...Kanan lang makalampas ng sari-sari store...

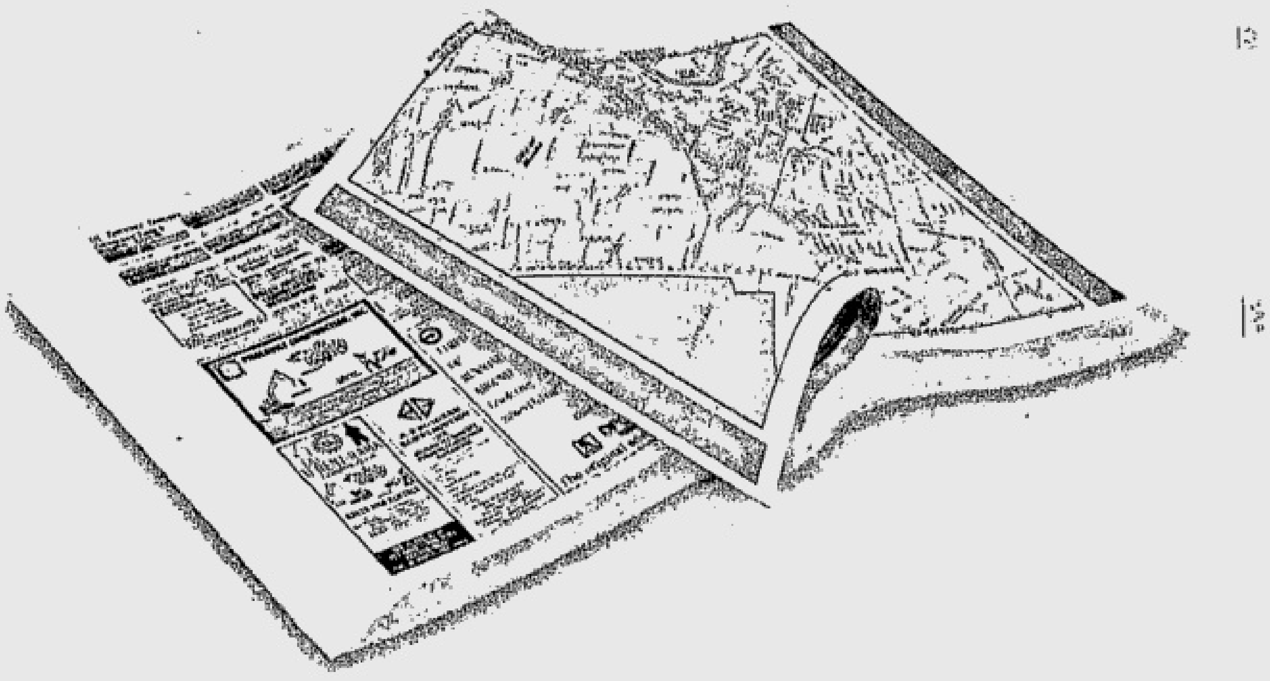
...tapos kaliwa pagkatapos ng DALAWANG YOSI...

...en den diretso lang, den lep...LEP ha, KALIWA!
...sa may nakaupong aso...

...at pag nakita mo yung videokehan ni Aling Letty...

...wait lang ha...

...hindi pa doon..."



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Cops break up rally near Malacañang; 13 held

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A POLICEMAN cuffs a defiant 16-year-old high school student who joined the rioting crowd in Mendiola yesterday. REM ZAMORA

Militants test police tolerance yesterday and push turns to shove. REM ZAMORA

USING TRUNCHEONS TO ENforce President Macapagal-Arroyo's get-tough policy on dissenters, riot police yesterday broke up a planned protest by several hundred members of a militant group at Malacañang and arrested at least 13 of them.

Several protesters and policemen sustained minor injuries in scuffles along Mendiola.

Police went after the protesters immediately after they got out of jeeps, unfurled banners and began heading toward the Palace.

Leaders of the militant Kilusan para sa Demokrasya (KPD) said they had planned to denounce Ms Arroyo's plans to amend the Constitution and test the "no-rally, no-permit" policy which Malacañang announced last week.

"The Constitution does not indicate that we need permits to hold public assemblies," said Pete Pinlac, the 38-year-old KDP chair who was taken to the Manila Police District (MPD) headquarters, along with 12 other protesters aged 15 to 50.

"They pushed us away with their truncheons without even warning us to voluntarily disperse first," Pinlac said.

The 13 protesters were released later in the day after being charged with obstruction of traffic.

Last week, Malacañang announced a "calibrated preemptive response" to protests, saying it had received complaints from businessmen and commuters affected by rallies, particularly in Makati. Businessmen said the protests were scaring off foreign investors.

"I'm tired of chasing the bully around the schoolyard," Ms Arroyo had said on Thursday, three weeks after she escaped impeachment in Congress for allegedly stealing last year's election.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said Ms Arroyo's statement did not mean she was the one being bullied. "She was speaking in behalf of the citizens whose lives and businesses are being disrupted by the demonstrations."

Makati police chief relieved

Defensor said that even if a city authorized a rally, police still had to see to it that the demonstration did not adversely affect the lives and businesses of other people.

Officials yesterday announced the reassignment of Senior Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, 55, the Makati police chief for the last five years. He was made deputy district director for administration as of Sunday.

"It was a command decision," said Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, Southern Police director. "Actually, that has been long overdue because he's been with Makati for so long and it's about time that he was moved to a higher position," Garcia said.

Supt. Efren Ysulat, the Makati police deputy chief, was appointed to temporarily take over the top post.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said politics was behind Gutierrez's reassignment.

"It appears that under the Arroyo regime, being the police chief in a city where the mayor is a critic of an illegitimate ruler is dangerous to one's career," Binay said in a statement.

"The action is highly irregular," said Binay. "The supervision and control of local executives over the local police, which is rather limited, is further being undermined."

Director General Arturo Lomibao of the Philippine National Police said protest actions on streets, especially on major thoroughfares where traffic could be impeded, would no longer be allowed.

Policy to protect majority

"The policy now is to protect the silent majority," said Lomibao. "We are a democratic society and the rule of the majority is always upheld, and we cannot allow the so-called tyranny of the minority to rule over the big majority."

"In the past, we used to close streets just to allow people to have rallies. But this time, that cannot be done anymore," he said, obviously referring to the Makati protests led by Binay, who chairs the United Opposition.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo was exercising powers similar to that wielded by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"The President is avoiding the use of the term martial law," said Pimentel, "but she's exercising powers that can only be justified under a martial law situation."

"Since we can't get her to account in an impeachment proceedings demonstrations will have to be resorted to ... That's why they can't prevent demonstrations all the more. That's a legitimate avenue for the airing of grievances of the people," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said that the constitutionality of the administration's calibrated preemptive response to protests could be challenged in the Supreme Court. He also assailed Malacañang for threatening to suspend Binay as Makati mayor by reviving old corruption charges against him.

"That threat is designed with just one thing in mind: Disable Mr. Binay as mayor of Makati from giving permits to rallies against Gloria. The connection is obvious," Pimentel said.

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, announced his group would challenge the new Arroyo policy by holding a huge rally next month.

"We had filed for permits in the past yet we had always been given the runaround by some of the authorities," Reyes said. He referred specifically to Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila, a staunch Arroyo supporter. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora, Luige A. del Puerto and Tarra V. Quismundo*

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 22 issue, a story on the front page—"Wide rich-poor gap big obstacle to RP growth"—misstated the year the National Statistics Office conducted the survey on education. The survey was done in 2003—not 2203.

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Bird flu threat tops agenda of Asean meet in RP

SOUTHEAST ASIAN OFFICIALS discussed ways to shield their robust agricultural sectors from the ravages of bird flu, deforestation and other threats during a conference which opened in Tagaytay City yesterday.

Agriculture and forestry ministers and senior officials of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) will also tackle a plan for an emergency rice stockpile, pest control and other concerns. Their counterparts from regional heavyweights China, Japan and South Korea will join the weeklong conference on Thursday, officials said.

"The robustness of our collective agricultural growth is currently being threatened by a host of developments," Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban warned the delegates.

"If we fail to act as one, not only do we dissipate our scarce individual resources and efforts, we would have failed our people and their joint destiny of prosperity and progress," he said.

Panganiban said delegates would discuss details of a planned regional anti-bird flu task force and share strategies to contain the disease, citing the government's success in preventing the entry of bird flu in the country.

The Department of Agriculture also ordered the monitoring of bird sanctuaries yesterday because of concerns the seasonal arrival of migratory birds next month could bring the avian flu to the country.

The department called for tighter surveillance of the illegal trade in exotic birds in Mindanao, and their immediate destruction if they came from bird-flu affected countries such as Indonesia. *(See related story in The World, Page A7)*

"The disease has continued to spread in many Asian countries. Active infection in migratory birds in Russia and China was also confirmed," Panganiban said in a statement.

He added that these developments posed a "real threat" because of the Philippines' proximity to bird flu-affected countries and because it is in the path of migratory birds from northern countries in the winter season.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed 65 people in four Asian nations, including five people in Indonesia, since late 2003 and has been found in birds in Russia and Europe.

Eventually, it is likely to mutate into a form that is easily transmissible between humans, triggering a pandemic that could kill millions and which would wreak havoc on the global economy.

Millions of migratory birds arrive in the Philippines during the last three months of the year.

Scientists said the virus could spread through migrating geese and other birds.

In July, Manila reported that three ducks on an isolated farm near the Candaba, Pampanga swamp, a sanctuary frequented by migratory birds, were infected with a weaker strain of bird flu.

Government scientists said they suspect that the ducks were exposed to a low pathogenic avian influenza virus from migratory birds.

Ruben Pascual, secretary general of a joint government and private sector task force against bird flu, said there would be information campaigns in areas near bird sanctuaries.

Local governments would be asked to keep people and poultry away from migratory birds, he said.

AP, Reuters

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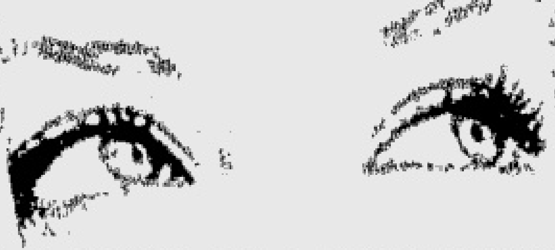
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Where are ballot boxes?

From page A1

to me if Legarda would also blame this on me," De Castro said.

Adasa denied that the ballot boxes were missing, saying "the allegations are absolutely not true."

"The storage area for the ballot boxes has not been opened or disturbed since it was padlocked after the presidential canvassing in June 2004," Adasa said.

He noted that there was no sign of forced entry. "(T)here is absolutely no indication that the ballot boxes as arranged in June 2004 were disturbed," Adasa said.

With each ballot box supposed to contain only about 25 ERs, those turned over to the PET could not possibly hold all of the ERs from the 2,400 polling precincts in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur, according to Brillantes.

Each polling precinct had one ballot box which contained 25 ERs. "Divide the number of precincts by 25, you will get an average of 200 boxes," he said.

He said that Lanao del Sur should have 90 boxes and an equal number for Lanao del Norte. "But in the 48 boxes, only 9 came from Lanao Sur, 34 from Lanao Norte and five from Surigao," he said.

"That means that Comelec (Commission on Elections) did not submit all the ERs from all over the country. It can also mean that they had been submitted but are now missing," Brillantes said.

Special Action Force

He said Legarda would again file a complaint with the PET to make Congress and the Comelec account for the missing ballot boxes.

The House sergeant at arms, Bayani Favic, had been tasked with safeguarding the boxes containing the second copy of election documents, but he had deputized members of the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police to guard them. Favic could not be reached yesterday.

Told that the missing ballot boxes from the three Mindanao provinces may have been mixed with those from other regions, Brillantes said this would be "unlikely" since Adasa had said that they had already made an inventory of the ballot boxes concerned and had, in fact, segregated them.

Brillantes said the unaccounted for ballot boxes might have been stolen to destroy any evidence of electoral fraud.

He pointed out that this development lent credence to a Newsbreak magazine report that administration operatives had tampered with the ballot boxes in January and February while they were in the custody of Congress.

Legarda said the discovery of ballot boxes that had been forcibly opened in Tabangon, Cebu, suggested a coverup of the poll fraud.

"No sane person would believe the Tabangon incident to be a simple case of theft. Obviously, the padlocks were destroyed to gain access to the contents," Legarda said.

Robbed of true leaders

"They are insulting the intelligence of the people with their feeble attempts of covering up what all Filipinos already know—that they have been robbed of their true leaders through massive cheating in the last election," she added.

It was in Cebu where De Castro posted a lead of nearly one million votes over Legarda.

Legarda disputed the figures in her protest, saying De Castro was not voted a senator by Cebuanos in 2001 while she topped the senatorial elections there in 1998.

At the Kapihan sa Maynila forum, Legarda revealed the "secret and mystery" behind the ERs used in last year's presidential and vice presidential elections.

She said that based on expert analysis, many ERs had been prefabricated before the elections in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo and De Castro, Ms Arroyo's running mate.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Legarda showed that many ERs were not prepared in accordance with the law, including Comelec Resolution No. 6667. She also illustrated the various modus operandi used by so-called *pianistas* (master forgers) to tamper with the ERs and the tell-tale marks that they had left behind.

Makeshift storage room

Until the initial transfer yesterday morning, the more than 42,000 ballot boxes containing the ERs, COCs and Statements of Votes (SOVs) had been gathering dust in a makeshift storage room in the House of Representatives' south wing lobby.

They were piled on top of the other, separated only from passersby by chicken wire and plywood. The main door was secured only by an ordinary lock and supposedly guarded round the clock by SAF members.

Escorted by two military vehicles, poll officials loaded the 53 ballot boxes onto two Elf trucks and transported these to the Supreme Court session hall on Taft Avenue in Manila. The boxes labeled "spoiled ballots" were delivered to the tribunal at around 2 p.m.

"They're (ballot boxes) here for safekeeping under the official custody of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. But as for the counting, appointment of revisors and all that, they're awaiting the guidelines from the court," Supreme Court Administrator Ismael G. Khan Jr. said.

Brillantes later told reporters that the unaccounted for boxes could have been either missing—which only meant that they had been stolen—or had not been deposited at all in the House during the canvassing of votes last year.

Or it could have been mixed with the other ballot boxes stored in the makeshift storage room which, however, was improbable because boxes were arranged according to the provinces they came from.

Surveillance cameras

"We've been saying that they've been tampering with the contents of the ballot boxes ever since. What do you expect from this administration?" said San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora yesterday at a press conference of the opposition in the House.

"They're missing now. They will be back tonight, so tomorrow all of them will be accounted for," he said in jest.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero demanded that the House require the submission of copies of the surveillance tapes. "The surveillance cameras operate 24 hours. We should preview these tapes, unless they again reason out that these tapes are recycled every two weeks," Escudero said.

Zamora earlier said in a privilege speech that allies of Malacañang led by a member of the "official family" had been on top of the tampering of the ballot boxes.

Had the impeachment bid against Ms Arroyo pushed through, the opposition would have presented six witnesses who were part of the clandestine operation to tamper with and change the ERs, SOVs and COCs stored in each of the boxes, he said.

Break-ins

Witnesses still in the custody of the opposition said there had been four break-ins at the makeshift storage room, but Favic did not report the incidents to the plenary.

The latest occurred on Christmas Eve, according to Zamora.

"They entered the room, located the target boxes, opened them, unloaded the contents and replaced them with new ones," said Zamora, stressing that at the time Poe's election protest had not yet been dismissed by the Supreme Court.

"We have testimonies from the six individuals that it was their handwriting (on the election documents)," said Zamora. The tampering, he said, was actually done in a Quezon City condominium.

No perfect crime

Asked how two of the four individuals had managed to enter the storage room, he said: "In full view of the (police) guards. It's a (well-planned) coverup."

South Cotabao Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said the "burglars" were carrying fake poll documents but printed on original election paper used by the Comelec.

"There is no perfect crime. The truth about these allegations will come out," said Custodio.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said the witnesses even claimed that they had a rehearsal in which they managed to finish the operation in 10 minutes.

"Upon locating the boxes, they cut the plastic seals and opened the padlocks. The brown envelopes were taken out and their contents replaced with new (ERs, SOVs or COCs)," said Zamora.

They then carefully restored the boxes to their original state by replacing the plastic seals and padlocks with the same ones issued by the Comelec. "They even borrowed the inventory machine from the printing press, Ernest printing," said Custodio. *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*

Loren claims Noli fraudulently got 2.1-M 'insurance votes'

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARDA yesterday said Vice President Noli de Castro had some 2.1 million "insurance votes" through the use of 30,000 fraudulent election returns.

She called this "2G" fraud, which she said was a form of cheating different from the "first generation" electoral method of stealing or switching ballot boxes.

She said the 2G method, the first of its kind in 40 years of electoral fraud, helped President Macapagal-Arroyo win because the method gave her three million in insurance votes.

"The election was over before the country voted," Legarda said during the Kapihan sa Manila forum yesterday.

She has a pending electoral protest against De Castro.

According to Legarda, 2G fraud works by preparing election returns (ERs) with fictitious numbers of votes and submitting these for canvassing.

She said that through the use of fraudulent ERs, the incorrect number of votes were the ones reflected in the statement of votes (SOV) and in the certificates of canvass (COC).

"If you just see the SOVs and the COCs, you would not be able to detect fraud because the numbers tally," she said.

In her case, Legarda said ERs with tallies favoring De Castro were submitted to the canvassers.

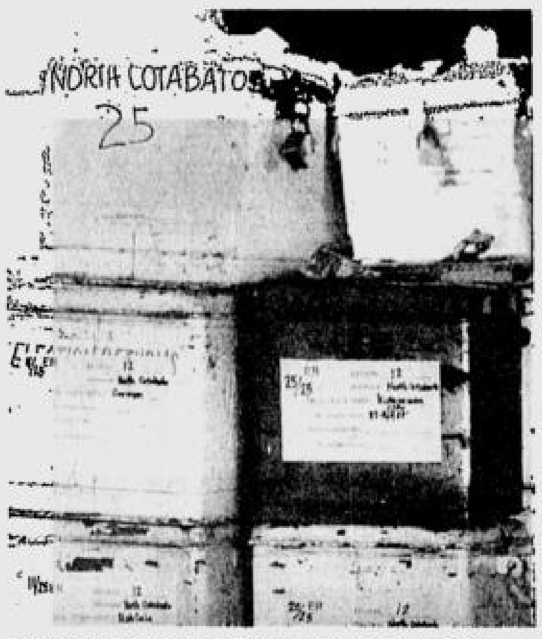
She said that by studying the allegedly fraudulent ERs her camp had found, she learned that De Castro had been given an average lead of 70 votes per ER. She also discovered that Ms Arroyo had been given an average lead of 100 votes per ER.

The scrutiny of the ERs was done by Segundo Tabayoyong, a document expert formerly with the National Bureau of Investigation.

Legarda said that by multiplying the 30,000 overprinted or unaccounted for ERs with the average of 70 extra votes that De Castro had been given per ER, then the latter would have gotten 2.1 million extra votes. Using the same formula, Ms Arroyo would have gotten 3 million extra votes.

But she also said that despite the insurance votes, De Castro's winning margin over her was not that big, adding this meant she still got a large number of votes.

Tabayoyong, speaking at the same forum, said an ER from Cebu and an ER from Pampanga that he had studied showed tallies where the alignment and the writing of the numbers were very similar.



BALLOT boxes used in the canvassing of the May 2004 national elections are stocked inside a makeshift stockroom at the House of Representatives in Quezon City. LYN RILLON

Election terms

ELECTION RETURNS: This refers to the tally of votes counted at each precinct and sent to the city or municipal board of canvassers.

STATEMENT OF VOTES (SOVs): This is a tally of votes prepared by the city or municipal board based on election returns received from the precincts.

CERTIFICATES OF CANVASS (COCs): This is a summary of votes for all national candidates cast in each province, or city, or absentee voting center. This will be the basis of the canvass of votes for president and vice president to be undertaken by a joint session of Congress.

Like the election returns and SOVs, seven copies are made to be distributed to the Comelec, the majority political party, the dominant minority party, Namfrel, the Election Records and Statistics Office of the Comelec, the Senate which is tasked to submit the CoCs to a joint session of Congress.

ALLOCATION LISTS: This refers to lists of all election materials, including ballots, ballot boxes, Certificates of Canvass and Statement of Votes, assigned by the Commission on Elections for each province, city or district. The lists contain the serial numbers and quantities of the materials—an apparent safeguard against cheating.

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2 justice execs admit Congress OK needed

From page A1

Like the two DOJ officials, Malacañang said Congress had the final say on the declaration of emergency rule amid persistent speculation that President Macapagal-Arroyo was poised to wrap herself with emergency powers to take over industries amid the oil crisis.

"Although this (national emergency) is normally declared by the executive branch, but based on our current law, this is still subject to the confirmation process or ratification process by the legislature," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview.

Nicdao and Umpa said they were being bogged down by questions such as which among the executive or legislative branches of government would grant the emergency power.

They are also studying which industries to take over, "what corporations are impressed with public interest," what constitutes emergency situation and "what temporary takeover means."

Earlier, Gonzalez said the industries that the government was planning to take over included oil, power, airline and shipping.

Police powers

Nicdao said the government could use its police powers to temporarily operate certain private firms during an emergency. The takeover is different from "eminent domain" in which the government confiscates property upon payment, he said.

Nicdao and Umpa said the justice secretary had ordered them to look into the constitutional provision on the temporary takeover of industries.

Section 17, Article 12 of the Constitution states: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the state may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

It is Congress that holds the power to grant the President the power to take over key firms in times of emergency, according to former Justice Secretaries Hernando Perez and Sedfrey Ordoñez.

"It's Congress which will grant them, subject to a limited period. So the source of authority is still Congress," said Ordoñez at yesterday's celebration of the DOJ's 108th anniversary.

Ordoñez was justice secretary from 1987 to 1990 and Perez was justice secretary from 2001 to 2003.

Prepare for contingency

Ordoñez and Perez supported efforts by Gonzalez to initiate studies on the planned takeover of certain industries amid the global oil crisis.

"You should make continuous studies on these matters. You have to prepare for every contingency, but it does not mean that is the law," Ordoñez said.

Gonzalez said that in spite of the negative publicity, he was not dropping plans to adopt economic emergency measures to address the oil crisis.

"I think it's my job to prepare for it. I'm not the secretary who goes to Malacañang and on being asked by the President would tell her, *'Ma'am bukas na lang kasi pag-aralan ko muna,'* (Ma'am let me tell you tomorrow because I still have to study it)," he said.

Gonzalez also denied rumors that there was a list of people to be arrested during the purported declaration of martial law.

"There is no such animal as a list of people to be arrested," he said. "That's a deliberate distortion … and they are the ones scaring the wits out of people," he said of the opposition.

Cover-up

But House Minority Leader Francis Escudero claimed that the administration intended to get back at businessmen who supported the impeachment bid against Ms Arroyo with its plan to take over private businesses in case the oil crisis worsened.

Escudero said the presidential proclamation prepared by Gonzalez was only a "coverup" for the administration's planned reprisal even against businessmen who did not publicly pledge their support for Ms Arroyo.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said it was government talk of taking over private businesses and not opposition rallies that was scaring off investors.

"It is these scare tactics that are scaring away investors and not the rallies in Makati. And these alarming statements come from the government itself," he said.

Payback time

Escudero said the opposition considered the government plan to take over utilities and charge members of the so-called Hyatt 10 as part of the administration's alleged plot to implement a "creeping martial law."

"It's payback time. Those in the Palace have become smug and arrogant, thinking that they have already gotten over the storm and that it's now time to get back at their critics," he said at a press conference.

Escudero said that if the administration was sincere in its efforts to address the rising oil prices, it could have moved quickly to remove permanently, and not just defer, the implementation of the expanded value-added tax on petroleum products and electricity.

He said the administration could have also worked for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Political uncertainty shaking business confidence, says poll

From page A1

In the survey conducted recently by the country's biggest business organization, close to three-fourths (70 percent) of respondents said the political uncertainty was affecting their businesses, with 45 percent predicting Ms Arroyo would not be able to fully implement her economic reform agenda before the end of her term in 2010.

The PCCI conducted the survey from July to August, with three-fourths of the 250 respondents coming from small and medium-scale enterprises. The rest of the respondents were from large firms with assets of P100 million and above.

A majority of the respondents also saw no economic upturn in next six months as soaring oil prices and political problems hounding Ms Arroyo weighed on business sentiment.

"Businesses are cautious considering 54 percent believe the economy would not improve in the next six months," PCCI president Donald G. Dee said in a media briefing.

Even so, 40 percent of the respondents expected to see growth in the next 12 months. Forty-four percent said their businesses grew in the previous 12 months.

The Philippine economy grew 4.7 percent in the first half from a year earlier, but the government expects stronger agricultural output to boost full-year growth to 5.3 percent from last year's 5.7 percent.

Although Ms Arroyo survived the desertion of her economic team and key allies in July as well as an attempt to impeach her earlier this month on charges of election fraud and graft, several groups continue to call for her resignation. She also remains unpopular.

Dee said about two-thirds of the respondents listed rising energy cost and political instability as the two main issues affecting business confidence in the country. Other concerns cited by the respondents were peace and order situation, graft and corruption, and government policies.

Forty-two percent of the respondents said Filipino businesses had become less competitive due to the high energy costs, while 48 percent said further trade liberalization would affect the competitiveness of local manufacturers.

Sixty percent of the respondents said they believed the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law, the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform program, would not benefit businesses.

The PCCI is supporting an amendment to the law seeking to remove the provision increasing corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years starting 2006.

The fate of the VAT law remains in the hands of the Supreme Court after the opposition last week asked the tribunal to reconsider its earlier decision upholding the constitutionality of the tax.

The broader sales tax, which is expected to raise chronically weak government revenues and help cut the country's budget deficit and its dependence on debt, was frozen by the court hours after it came into force on July 1.

The government planned to reimpose the tax next month.

Further dampening business sentiment were concerns on governance. Two-thirds of the respondents said government rules were not being properly enforced, while 55 percent said they had to exert "extra efforts" just to secure a business permit.

"The challenge for the government now is to see to it that it is on track in implementing its commitments in instituting various reforms that would substantially improve the economy's performance and investor confidence," Dee said. *With reports from Reuters and AFP*

2 more Indonesians dead from bird flu

JAKARTA—INDONESIAN HEALTH OFFICIALS Monday confirmed two more deaths from bird flu as Australia said its neighbor is struggling to contain the virus which has now claimed at least six lives.

"I think they've been caught a bit short, to tell you the truth, and they're finding it difficult to handle," Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters in Australia.

I Nyoman Kandun, the health ministry's director-general of infectious diseases, said a test confirmed that a five-year-old girl named Riska had become the latest victim of the virus to be identified.

"Her blood test was positive," he said. The girl died last Wednesday.

Although a saliva sample tested negative, the ministry has classified her case as a bird flu death based on the blood analysis, he said.

Samples have been sent to Hong Kong for further analysis.

A 27-year-old woman, one of five patients who had tested positive for bird flu at the Sulianto Saroso hospital for infectious diseases, died on Monday, the hospital said earlier.

Ilham Patu, spokesperson for the hospital, identified the woman as Karwati and said she had been in contact with fowl which had also died.

The latest deaths brought to 65 the number of people in Southeast Asia known to have died from the H5N1 strain of the virus since 2003. Vietnam has recorded 43, Thailand 12 and Cambodia four.

Authorities revealed the latest deaths one week after the health ministry declared it was facing an "extraordinary" outbreak of the virus. The status provides for the forced hospitalization of suspected cases, among other measures.

The Jakarta Post, in a front page article Monday, said few measures have been taken to contain the outbreak.

"There has been no mass cull of poultry in areas where the virus has claimed lives, while poultry farmers are beginning to complain about the shortage of vaccine," the paper said.

But more help was on the way.

Australia on Monday increased the amount of antiflu medication Tamiflu it is sending to Indonesia from 10,000 to 50,000 courses.

Asked if he was happy at how quickly the first batch of 10,000 courses of Tamiflu had been distributed, Downer said: "I think it's been a little slowly, a little more slowly than we would have liked.

"But I think they're getting better organized now, particularly with the support of the World Health Organization."

Japan on Monday announced it was sending an expert team that would arrive in Indonesia Tuesday to gather information and provide advice on counter-measures.

The US is also providing assistance.

The World Health Organization (WHO) fears H5N1 will mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious and lethal to millions in a global pandemic. *AFP*

Debt relief gains revive debate over IMF-World Bank conditions

By Nathaniel Harrison

WASHINGTON—WHILE THE WORLD'S poorest countries are close to savoring the fruits of a debt-relief deal worth billions of dollars, the real impact of the move on the fight against poverty will depend on the conditions attached, activists warn.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund over the weekend approved a plan to cancel an estimated $40 billion in multilateral debt carried by 18 poor countries, a step hailed by government officials and activists alike as breakthrough.

The initiative was drafted by the Group of Eight industrialized nations, which agreed to finance the deal. About 70 percent of the debt is due the World Bank, with the remainder owed the IMF and the African Development Bank.

The 18 countries included in the initial phase are deemed to have carried out macroeconomic and structural reforms approved by the IMF and the World Bank.

Damaging conditions

But while debt relief activists gave a cautious welcome to the project, they warned that expanding the initiative will require more countries to submit to what they see as damaging conditions imposed by the two Washington-based lenders.

"A further 40 plus countries need immediate debt cancellation," said Martin Powell of the World Development Movement.

"Those that do become eligible will certainly be forced to implement economic policies like privatization and trade liberalization first. Yet this has been shown often to increase poverty and undermine democracy."

The group cited a study by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, which it said had found that least-developed countries adopting free-market reforms in the 1990s suffered from growing poverty, unemployment, wage inequality and wage reductions.

The fund in a "fact sheet" said, "When a country borrows from the IMF its government makes commitments on economic and financial policies—a requirement known as conditionality … a way for the IMF to monitor that its loan is being used effectively."

Even before a loan is approved, according to the IMF, beneficiary countries could be asked to adjust their exchange rates, eliminate price controls and adopt a government budget "consistent with the program's fiscal framework."

Hardship

The problem with this approach, activists say, is that it frequently requires countries to abandon measures protecting domestic markets and to reduce social spending and allow for greater privatization in the economy—steps that can impose real hardship on vulnerable populations.

Collins Magalasi, an official with the group ActionAid, said that in Malawi the World Bank "pushed through the privatization of the strategic grain reserve, despite opposition from Parliament and the general public."

"As a result, poor people are already facing grain shortages."

Malawi's chief economist in the ministry of economic planning and development, Ben Botolo, is quoted by the British group Christian Aid as saying, "The main problem is that no one gives aid unless the IMF says so."

"This becomes a dangerous thing. If you are desperate for cash they can push anything at you and you must accept it."

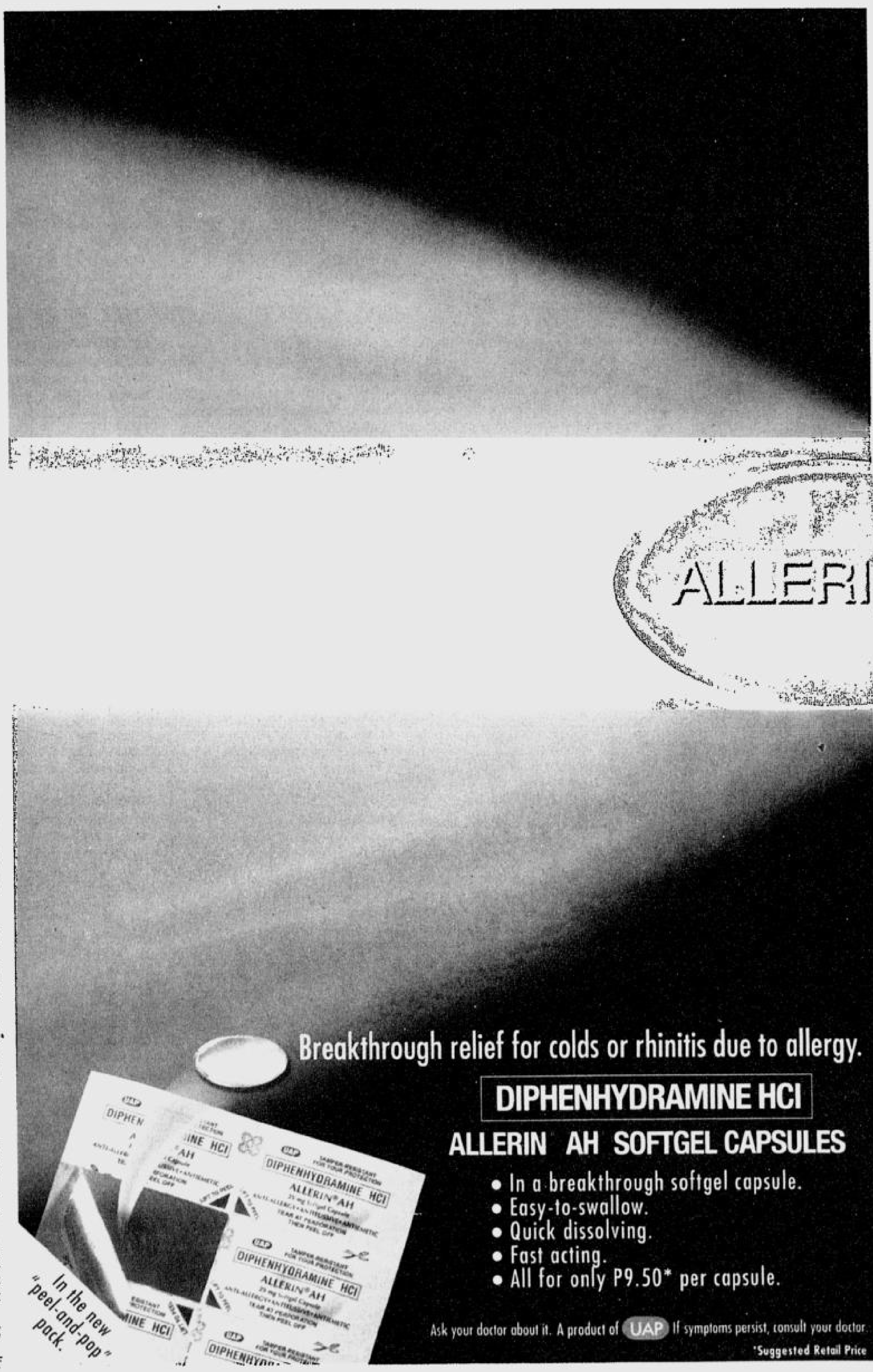
In a just-released paper, Christian Aid maintains that the World Bank and the IMF "must not automatically assume that liberalization will foster growth or poverty reduction."

"Instead, the impact of liberalization should be carefully assessed, enabling countries to make their own informed choices."

Both the IMF and the Bank in recent years have taken steps to revise their use of conditionality. The IMF says it is trying to be "flexible and responsive in discussing alternative policies with countries requesting financial assistance."

Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, speaking here Sunday, noted that the World Bank's reliance on conditionality has "declined sharply" in the last decade.

Instead, he said, the bank has begun to advocate "good practice principles," which take greater account of a country's particular needs and circumstances. *AFP*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Death toll from Rita low, but bill mounts

CAMERON PRAIRIE, LOUISIANA—RESCUE helicopters and boats waited for dawn Monday to resume their search for victims of Hurricane Rita in flooded Louisiana communities as the bill from the natural disaster continued to mount even though the death toll remained low.

After the thousand-plus dead from Hurricane Katrina, only two people were reported dead from Rita though many people remain missing in small towns along the west Louisiana coast that bore the brunt of the 195 km an hour winds and six m high storm surge.

Military helicopters, coast guard boats and volunteers who brought their own craft scoured the worst hit towns and fishing villages that were cut off by floods.

Up to 2,500 people were rescued from Vermilion parish alone during the weekend, authorities said. More were saved in other western Louisiana districts from rooftops and even some who scrambled up trees to get out of alligator and snake infested swamps.

One Vietnamese family rode out the storm on their shrimp boat in Intercoastal City. Many of the stranded people used cell phones to call for help.

Vermilion, Lake Charles, Cameron and other towns are all near the Louisiana-Texas border and took a direct hit from the eye of the storm. Some of the towns are more than 25 km from the coast but still suffered severe flooding.

Rita ripped off roofs, sent trees flying into cars, fanned fires through historic wooden buildings and flooded low-lying towns, but the region's vital oil infrastructure was relatively unscathed.

Oil prices fell in special trading in New York on Sunday as fears that Rita would ravage the network of refineries off the coast of Texas proved unfounded.

One million people remained without electricity but state officials spoke of "miracles" after studying the human toll.

Authorities in Mississippi reported one death from a tornado offshoot of the hurricane which tore up a mobile home. In Texas one man was killed by a fallen tree.

Twenty-four elderly residents of a Texas nursing home were killed when their bus caught fire on a highway during the evacuation.

But in Louisiana, which suffered most from Katrina on Aug. 29, officials reported no immediate fatalities, though deaths were feared.

Sheriff Theos Duhon said he expected to find bodies as the search continued in Cameron parish. "It's a very grim picture … There are no fatalities so far but I suspect there will be a few."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said the low toll was "a blessing" and praised what he called the largest evacuation in US history which saw about three million people flee the Texas and Louisiana coasts before the storm.

Officials pleaded with the multitudes who fled in advance of the storm not to rush back, warning that the zone remained dangerous due to flooding.

President George W. Bush who had led appeals for people to get away from the coast before Rita struck joined the Texas and Louisiana governors in urging evacuees to stay in their refuges. "The situation is still dangerous," said Bush.

"Please, please wait for the all-clear," said Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco, noting that roads remained closed and bridges could be unsafe.

Perry estimated the storm damage in Texas at well over $8 billion and Blanco said she would ask Bush's administration for an even bigger sum.

Risk Management Solutions, a leading US risk assessor, also said Sunday that insured losses from Hurricane Rita were likely to range between four and $7 billion.

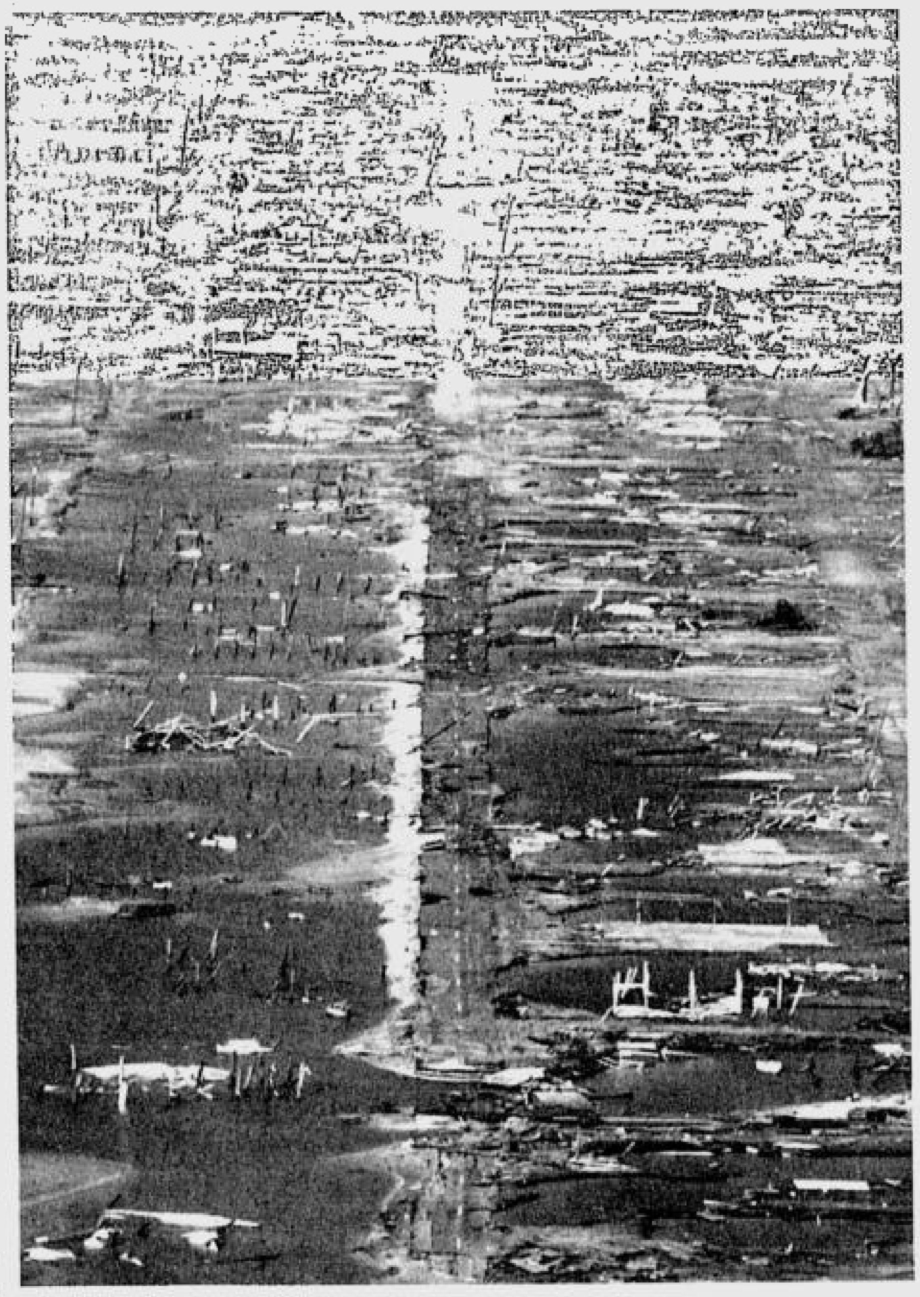
"Hurricane Rita is comparable to last year's Charley in that its damage is spread across a low population density region of agricultural and fishing-related industries," said Kyle Beatty, a meteorologist with RMS. "There is also notable damage to offshore platforms, refineries and byproducts industries of petroleum manufacturing."

The president's top economic adviser, Ben Bernanke, said in a speech to bankers that despite damages from Katrina and Rita, he remained "pretty optimistic about the economy."

In New Orleans, a virtual ghost city since Katrina left it flooded and beaten, floodwaters stopped rising Sunday as a levee overwhelmed for the second time in a month was patched up again.

Helicopters were dropping huge sandbags over a gap in the city's Industrial Canal that had enabled water to flood back into the impoverished Lower Ninth Ward, already devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Mayor Ray Nagin said he hoped the first New Orleans residents, homeless since Katrina, could start returning as early as Monday. *AFP*



LITTLE remains of Holly Beach, La., a popular vacation and fishing spot, in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, as seen in this aerial view Sept. 25. AP

Poles dump ruling left, veer to right

WARSAW—POLAND'S CENTER-right parties crushed the ruling left in parliamentary elections, early results showed on Monday, but faced tough coalition talks on splits over how far to go in embracing the free market.

The conservative Law and Justice had a small lead over the probusiness Civic Platform, disappointing investors who piled into the Polish zloty, bonds and stocks earlier when surveys suggested free market champions would head the next cabinet.

Economists said the zloty was set to weaken when markets opened on Monday, also reflecting concern the campaign for presidential polls on Oct. 9 may disrupt coalition talks.

"The presidential campaign is still going on, so the battle between the Platform and Law and Justice will continue," said Ryszard Petru, chief economist at Bank BPH in Warsaw.

Law and Justice had 26.6 percent and Civic Platform 24.1 percent after ballots from 60 percent of voting districts were counted, the electoral commission said.

The parties, enjoying the biggest win for the heirs of the Solidarity movement which helped trigger the fall of communism in 1989, said they wanted to rule together in the European Union's biggest new member and that talks could start this week.

"We have long said we want this coalition and there are no reasons why it shouldn't happen," said Law and Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the likely next prime minister.

Both parties promise to create more jobs, lower taxes and weed out corruption that tainted the four-year rule of the Democratic Left Alliance, reformed former communists. *Reuters*

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Bin Laden isolated, unable to contact terror network, say Pakistan officials

ISLAMABAD, PAKistan—Osama bin Laden probably is hiding out with a small core of mainly Arab supporters and the al-Qaida leader now only sends messages by courier because his communications network has been destroyed, senior Pakistani military and intelligence officials say.

There have been no fresh clues to Bin Laden's whereabouts, but he generally is believed to be in the border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"In our opinion, the reports on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden are more speculative stories rather than based on accurate intelligence," said Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, chief spokesperson for Pakistan's army.

Pakistan has deployed some 80,000 troops to its rugged border regions running along Afghanistan, fighting intense battles with al-Qaida-linked militants.

A CBS "60 Minutes" prepared for Sunday said that Pakistani officials believe Bin Laden may be hiding in Afghanistan, where he is protected by a very small number of people to keep a low profile.

A Pakistani intelligence official in the northwestern city of Peshawar, near the Afghan border, said Bin Laden probably is accompanied by "dozens" of mainly Arab supporters. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the secretive nature of his job.

Security officials in Pakistan—Washington's frontline Muslim ally in the war on terrorism—also believe Bin Laden's communications network has been destroyed.

"For a very long time there are no intercepts about Osama bin Laden giving instructions to his regional commanders, either through radio, telephone, satellite phone or the Internet," a senior security official said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the subject.

"If he is unable to give orders physically or otherwise, it clearly indicates that his communication has been severed."

In the past, Bin Laden would be surrounded by up to 500 people, the Peshawar-based intelligence official said, adding that his communications network has been reduced to human couriers, where a message "changes several hands" between its point of origin and final destination.

"This is a very slow and exposed way of communicating," the official said.

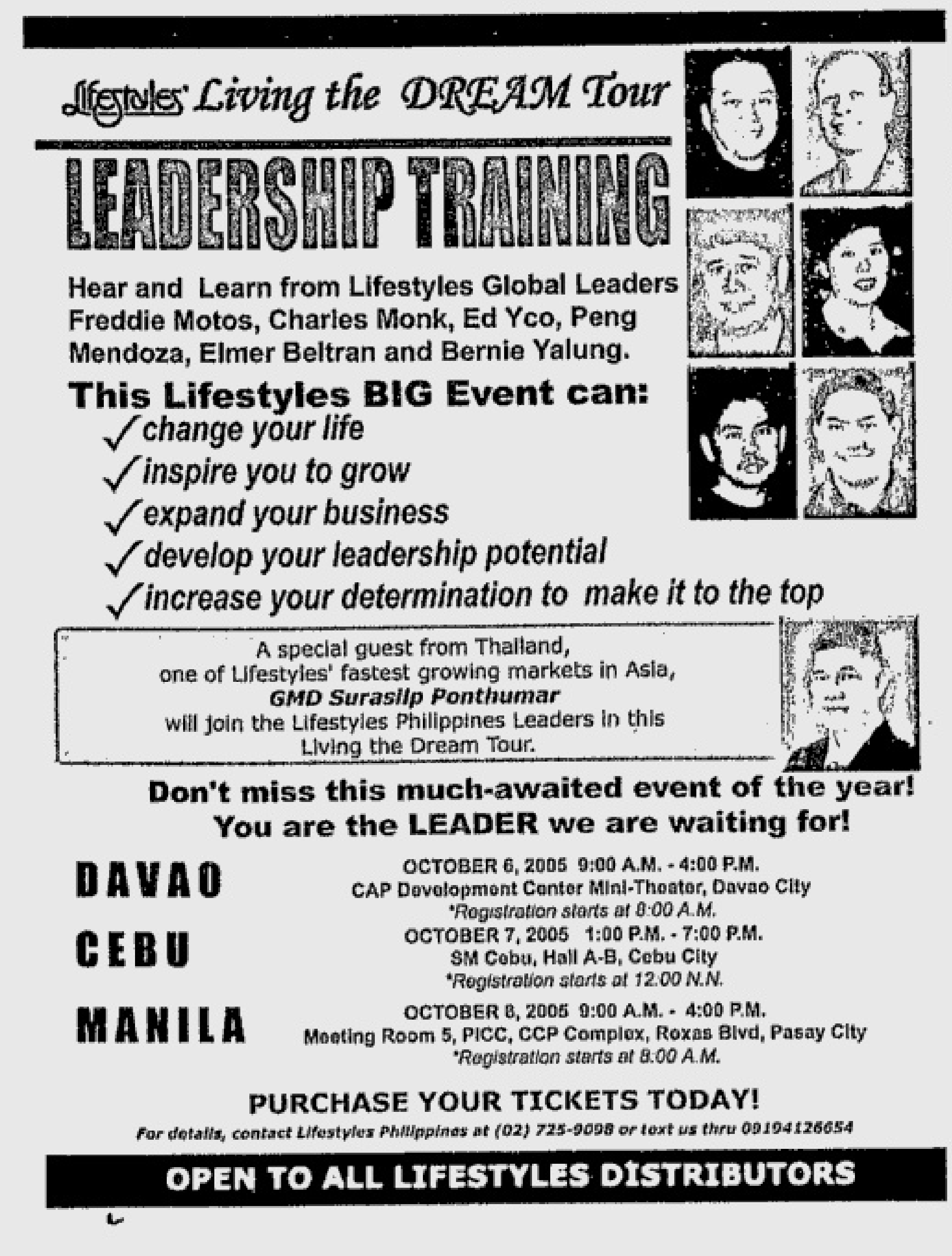
Security forces seized a letter from Bin Laden during a raid in Rawalpindi in 2003 in which al-Qaida's then No. 3 leader Khalid Shaikh Mohammed—a suspected planner of the Sept. 11 attacks—was captured. Mohammed is believed to have received the letter via the courier network, the official said.

Pakistani officials say more than 700 al-Qaida suspects, including senior figures like Mohammed, have been arrested.

Officials also say that information gleaned from al-Qaida has led to the arrests of militants outside Pakistan and helped prevent terrorist attacks abroad.

"The arrest of Naeem Noor Khan led to the arrest of a big gang … ahead of the British elections," Sultan said, claiming that the people arrested in Britain planned to attack Heathrow Airport.

Last year, intelligence agents arrested Muhammad Naeem Noor Khan, 25, an alleged Pakistani computer expert for al-Qaida. A reported tip-off from Khan led to the arrest of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian on the FBI's most-wanted list for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in East Africa that killed more than 200 people. *AP*



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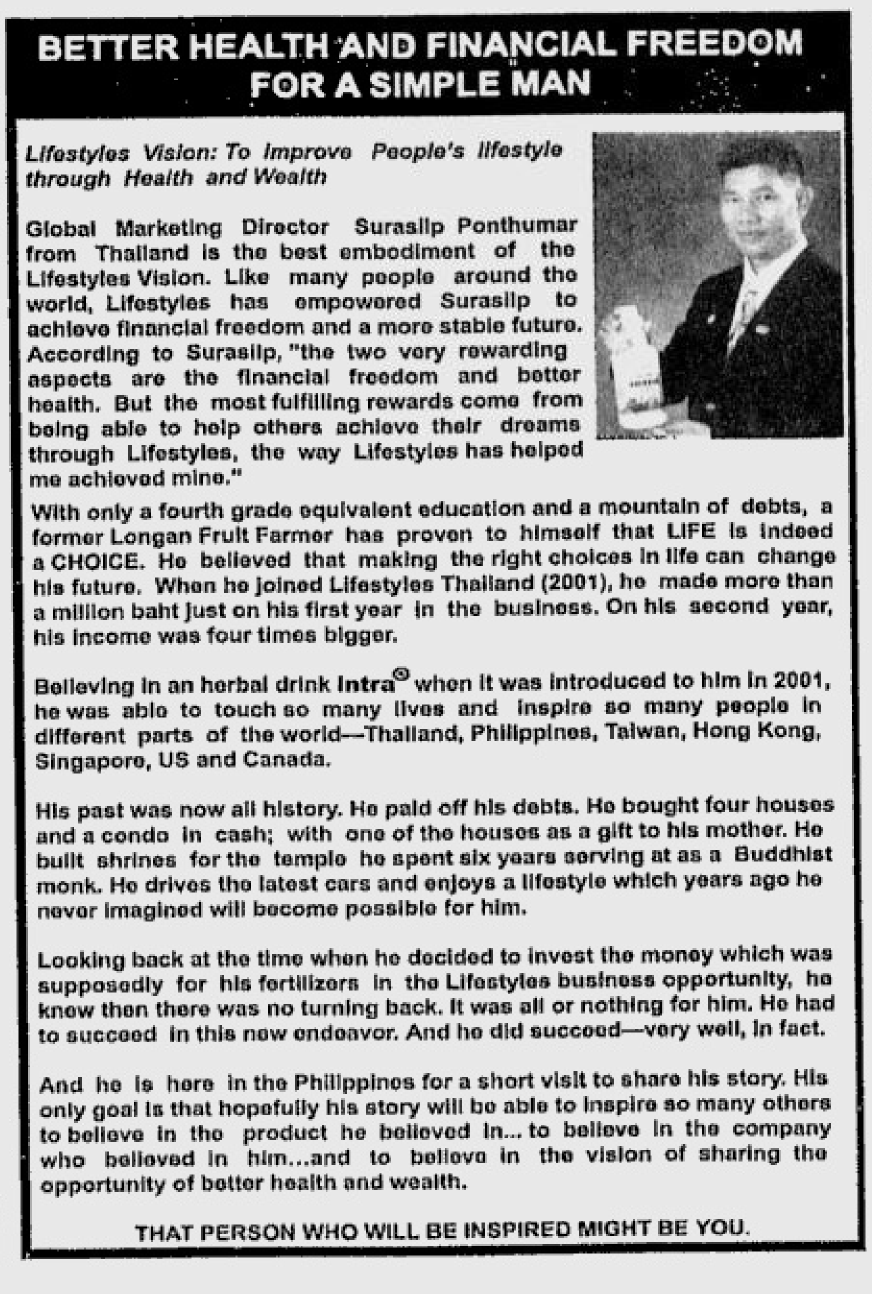

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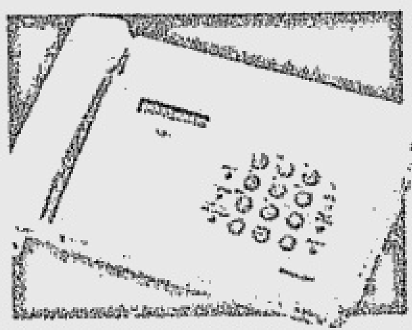

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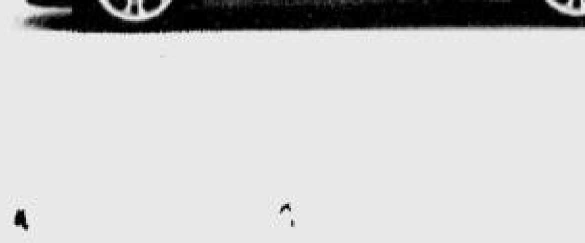

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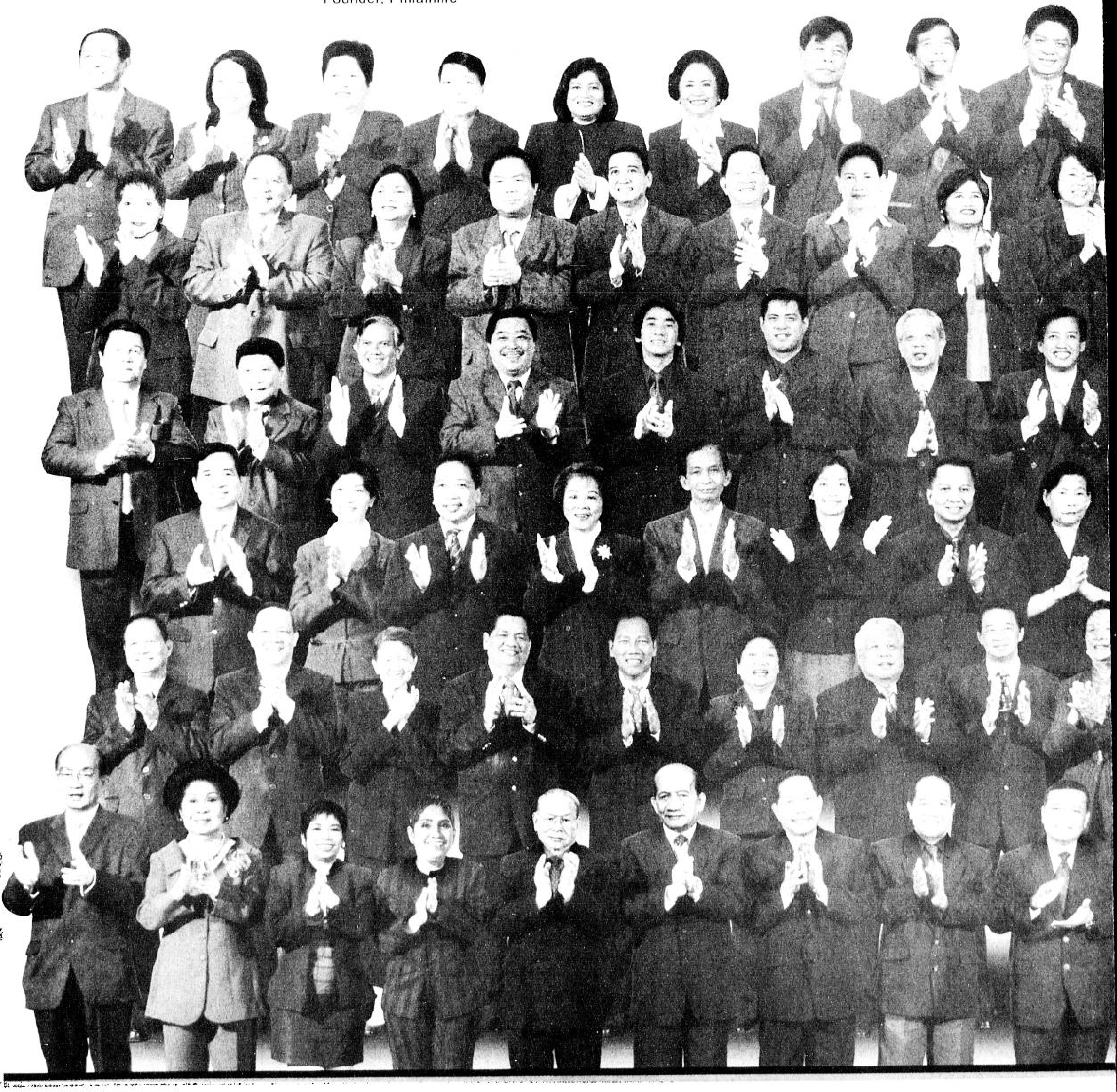

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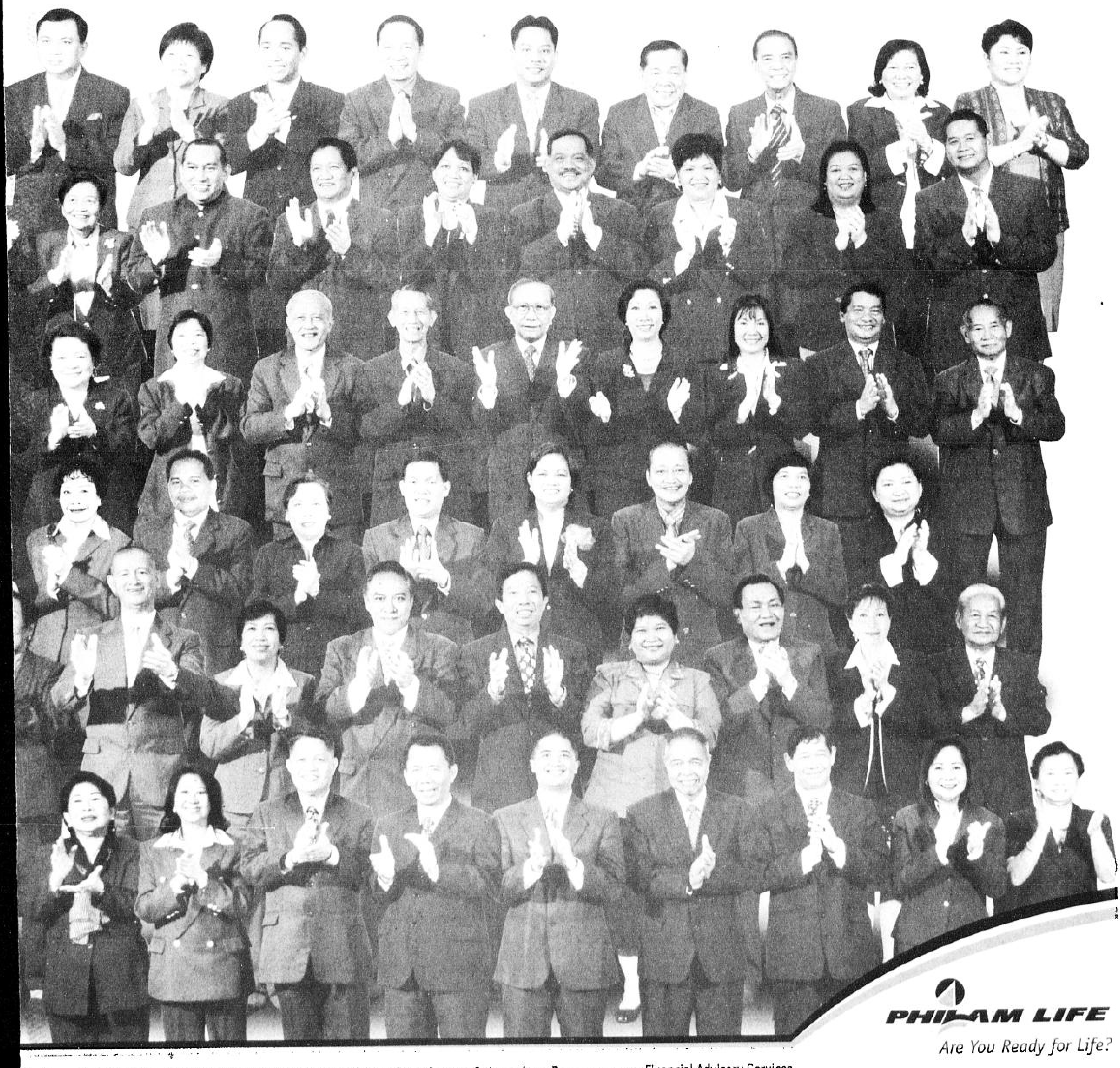

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OPINION

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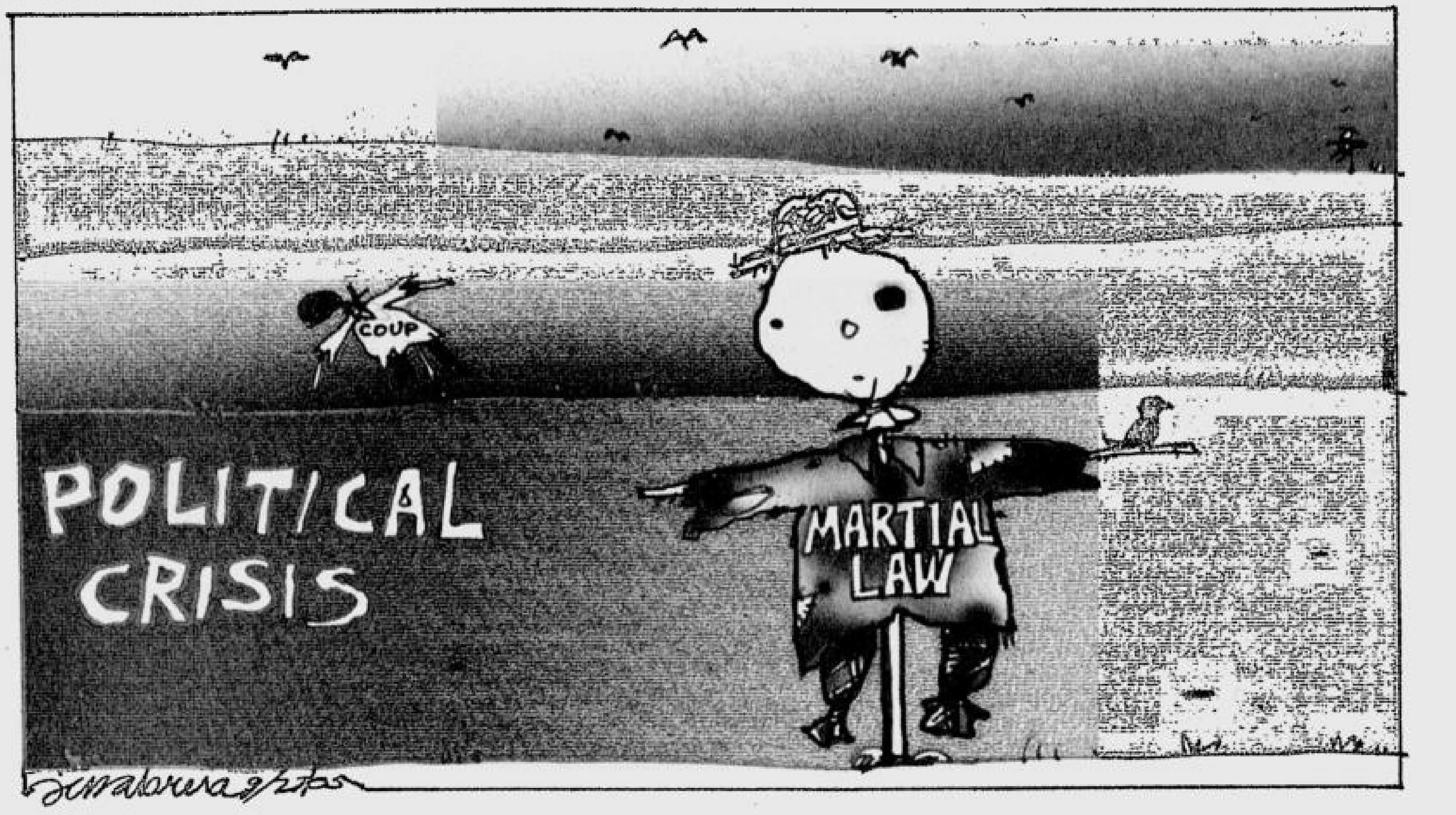

Out for revenge

EDITORIAL

WE SHOULD BE LESS CONCERNED WITH THE intramurals going on in the House of Representatives, and more with what's happening elsewhere in the government. The House has its own traditions and its own ways of determining matters such as committee chairmanships, apportioned according to the complexities of the ruling coalition of the moment. Therefore, in the case of majority and minority chairmanships, it is the parties concerned that will decide matters—including whether the decision to vote for or against the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo should determine whether a congressman will keep his committee or be removed from it.

Far more unsettling are the cases of Raul Pangalangan, until lately the dean of the UP College of Law; the former close aides of the President, Dinky Soliman and Victoria Garchitorena; and former Education Undersecretary Miguel Luz. All of them are now being made to experience the full weight of the "rule of law."

Soliman and Garchitorena are being held to account for opposing a contract while they sat on the board of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. By all means, let them explain themselves. Being willing to account for their actions and suffer persecution can only raise their stature.

Luz is a career executive service officer, and the Palace needs to move him to another post because it cannot fire him without running afoul of the Civil Service Law. But still it comes as a shock to see Malacañang brazenly disciplining a civil servant for refusing to do something that is of doubtful legality such as honoring post-dated checks issued by the Palace. The real nature of this so-called administrative act is patently political, and this becomes a case for serious concern as it affects the civil service and the Department of Education, in particular.

The circumstances surrounding the choice of Salvador Carlota as the new dean of the UP College of Law are quite curious, to say the least. Pangalangan had already served two terms as dean, and, thus, a third term for him would have been exceptional. While a majority of law faculty thought Pangalangan deserved a third term, a minority disagreed. Based on the traditions and regulations of the college, without the unanimous support of the faculty and "highly exceptional circumstances" and unless no other nominee challenged his election, Pangalangan wouldn't be entitled to a third term. There is nothing wrong with that, and up to that point, Pangalangan's popularity is irrelevant, given the rules and the college tradition.

Since Pangalangan, the choice of the majority of faculty members, could no longer be dean, the race was thrown wide open. Four nominees were presented to the Board of Regents. Interestingly Carlota, the eventual choice of the Board of Regents, was the only one for whom alumni mobilized support. According to those familiar with the selection process, the preference and endorsement of alumni are usually not a factor in what should be an internal college matter. But this time, according to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, there was a lobby mounted by a curious alliance of three law fraternities—Sigma Rho, Upsilon Sigma Phi and Alpha Phi Beta. Normally these fraternities are rivals and not allies, but the cause for alliance accounts for their collective endorsement.

It helped, of course, that the Board of Regents has four regents-at-large who owe their appointments to the President, not to mention other regents who have been vocal in support of Ms Arroyo. But while the PCIJ has taken care to point out that Carlota himself is not a controversial personality, and not, by any means, a rabid partisan, he serves the useful purpose of being a bland personality and being old enough to retire within a few years, by which time a profound change in the political complexion of the College of Law could be made by the President's people.

The evidence, indeed, is all circumstantial, but was it merely coincidence that Pangalangan has been quite vocal in his criticism of the administration just like the President's former appointees who have either been replaced or resigned? The President and her men are out for revenge, and they are not even making any effort to conceal it.

'Inequality traps'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DETROIT—AFTER THE SEPT. 11 BOMBING, did the United States turn into a "gated enclave," a phrase sociologists use to describe elite ghettoes?

Enhanced computer-checking process now operate in all US entry points. In Texas, retired Gen. Raymundo Jarque, 67, who'd served as communist rebel consultant, was denied entry, according to the INQUIRER. Jarque's name is on the US terrorist watch list for his prior affiliation with the National Democratic Front, the communist party's umbrella group, Philippine Consul Marciano Paynor Jr. said. The general and wife, Xenia, flew back to Manila the next day.

Tougher airport screening earlier blocked Sen. Edward Kennedy from boarding a Boston-Washington flight. Someone with a similar name landed on the watch list. "Young man," the senator protested, "I've flown this route for 42 years." When security officials unsnarled the block, the senator's flight had left.

All visitors are electronically fingerprinted. A mug photo is taken. A few precise courteous question are asked. In a few minutes, you're cleared to amble on, jet-lagged, to the luggage carousel.

US Visitor And Immigrant Status Indicator Technology have replaced the relaxed pre-Twin Towers' bombing procedures. But do tighter door checks indicate the emergence of a "gated enclave"?

I glance over my shoulder. The queue behind us is lengthening as passengers from later flights stream in. There are over 27.8 million aliens in the US today. Some are tourists, others temporary workers.

Legal migrants to the US slumped from 1.06 million to 705,827 after 9/11. Of that number 45,397 were Filipinos.

"You're one of them," I joshed Tricia. She married a US citizen, our son Francis who flies for Northwest Airlines.

Few now remember the pre-Commonwealth Tydings-McDuffie Law of 1934. That limited Filipino immigrants to 50. The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 retained limitation of immigrants by nationality.

Congress later shifted priority to close relatives of US citizens and skilled immigrants. (There go our doctors and nurses.) A 1990 law reiterated those priorities. But those fleeing persecution may still receive immigrant status.

Precise figures on illegals (*tago-ng-tago* or "TNT") are hard to come by. US Census estimates that illegals in the US range from 9 to 10 million. It's still bloating by 300,000 to 500,000 yearly, mostly Mexicans.

While doing her MA at Boston College, our youngest daughter worked summers for pocket money. After an immigration team swept through restaurants near the Charles River, Marixie wrote: "Mom, of my 15 co-workers in our bistro, I was the only legal."

The data make you wonder if the problem is rooted elsewhere. Do "gated enclaves" of elites, here and in other poor countries, force-feed streams of people into better-off nations?

"Equity and Development," the title and theme of the World Bank's 2006 World Development Report, makes this point. Equality is one thing, says the authors, lead by bank economist Francois Bourguignon. But equity is another. First and foremost, equity is equality of opportunities.

The report's key message is: hope for sustained economic progress is anchored on giving everyone the same chance. Equity isn't about equality in incomes, health, schooling or other assets, the report says. "Rather, it is the quest for a situation….when personal effort, preferences and initiative—and not family background, caste, race, or gender—account for the differences between people's economic achievements."

But the playing field is far from level. In some countries, infant mortality is four times higher for the poor than for the rich. (Philippine infant deaths are triple that of Malaysia.) Babies of indigents are at much greater nutritional risk.

If they get to grow up, their schools are substantially worse than those attended by children of "gated enclaves" or abroad. Similar inequalities exist in immunization, access to credit, even in coverage of the law. (Erap Estrada demands—and gets more perks—than other prisoners.)

These economic and political inequalities skew economic institutions and social systems that systematically favor the elite, those with more influence, the report stresses. "Inequitable institutions impose economic costs. If the middle and poorer groups are not able to exploit their talent, society loses opportunities for innovation and investment."

Political leaders' vision is often locked into short election cycles. They fail to note these adverse effects are reproduced, time and time again and, worse, across generations. They lead to what the report calls "inequality traps—where the cycle of underachievement continues."

If the Philippines is to break out of "gated enclaves," it must ram through an agenda that ranges from investing in people to "taxes for equity." These include expanding access to health services from birth and targeting the most needy, in the teeth of a mass exodus of doctors; improved schooling; and providing safety nets for the jobless and vulnerable groups.

Broad-based taxes and building equitable justice systems that achieve greater equity in access to land and resources are critical. So is broadening financial systems.

Our "gated enclaves" symbolize inequities that drive people abroad. That flood will continue for as long as some people are more equal than others.

* * *

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DEAR BISHOPS:

Your Orlando Quevedo says: "To search for truth in the streets or through a so-called people's court seems to be mere political and even an ideological ploy. People are indifferent … which may mean that they do not totally believe in the so-called truth presented by the opposition."

Your Fernando Capalla says: "Our stand is the same as before: people have the right to assemble and express dissent peacefully and within the bounds of law. But this right is not absolute and is limited by the rights of others. The rallies are disrupting classes and business in Makati. Constitutional rights have corresponding limitations."

And your CBCP statement says: "We should now forward and address the more important and urgent problem of the grinding poverty of our people—poverty which has, to a considerable extent, been caused by excessive politicking."

Now correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't the truth patently known? Frankly, I can't understand why even those who protest in the streets keep talking about searching for the truth. Is it possible we have become so blind to the truth we cannot see it when it stares us in the face? Is it possible we have become so self-deluded we keep searching for an elusive truth when it is right before us, eager to be seized?

What in God's name, which Capalla may now invoke only at risk of inviting a lightning bolt his way, do we mean by truth? Can there be any doubt that GMA is not the president of this country? We have the "Hello, Garci" tape to show she connived with a senior Comelec official to defraud the voters. Can anyone in his right mind believe that conversation did not take place, or that the parties there are not GMA and Garci? We have GMA's admission and apology for talking "to a Comelec official." Can anyone in his right mind believe GMA was not referring to the "Hello, Garci" tape?

All the legal wrinkles surrounding that tape mean only that you cannot send GMA to jail for it. They do not mean you can send GMA to Malacañang for it, or keep her there. Those are two different things. The parallel is this: If you have a wiretapped conversation between the AFP chief of staff and the Abu Sayyaf about a plot to bomb various schools in Metro Manila, you may not jail the AFP chief solely on its merits. He is innocent until proven guilty, and wiretapped conversations may not be admitted in court. But you may not also keep that AFP chief in office. You might as well shoot yourself in the head. You fire him and keep him under close surveillance, while looking for ways to prosecute him. Same story: You may not jail GMA on the basis of a wiretapped conversation about stealing the presidency, but you may not also keep her as president. You might as well shoot yourself in the head. You oust her and keep her under close surveillance, while looking for ways to prosecute her. (Of course, if the plot is to bomb Malacañang or the House of Representatives, I wouldn't mind seeing a medal pinned on the AFP chief.)

The question has never been: Is GMA the president or not? The question has always been: What do we do about the fact that GMA is not the president? You are saying, let's accept it and move on. You have a strange concept of God's truth.

Correct me if I'm wrong, too, but isn't it a monumental lack of any sense of proportion to be bothered by the disruption of classes and traffic and not by the destruction of democracy's most basic principles? Have the bishops so gotten senile they've forgotten they helped foment traffic and truancy before by egging the populace to storm out into the streets and reject Marcos and Erap? Haven't they claimed a franchise to Edsas I and II, jealously defending it to death, Bishop Socrates Villegas even metaphorically excommunicating the great unshod for trampling the Shrine in their parody of Edsa?

Is the cause for which we are inconveniencing the businessmen any less morally compelling than those that went before, which is that a tyrant is inconveniencing all of us by existing? Erap merely betrayed the public trust, GMA never had it. And you worry about traffic? *Kapal mo.* Ah, but if you can't even remember a basic law of Christian teaching, which is that the means does not justify the end, agreeing to take gambling money to give to the poor, which is yourself, then you won't remember any law at all, Canon or Mammon.

And correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't saying let's build God's world on sin as absolute a betrayal of the Christian faith as GMA herself stealing the vote? Isn't saying let's just pretend GMA is our president and concentrate on more important things instead as profoundly sacrilegious as GMA confusing Garci with God and saying, "God put me here?" What is more important than safeguarding the most precious institution of democracy, which is the vote?

It is true: Grinding poverty has been caused to a considerable extent by excessive politicking. But, pray, who is the one person in this country guiltiest of it? What do you call saying you will not run for president and doing so anyway—extraordinary diplomacy? Didn't you hear what your favorite non-president herself said then, which is that if she were to run for president, she would assure a never-ending cycle of divisiveness in this country? What, you figure the politicking and the never-ending divisiveness will be ever-ending the longer GMA clings to power?

There is only one thing worse than grinding poverty and that is moral bankruptcy. How can you presume to shepherd your flock when you yourselves are lost? How can you expect the faithful to be faithful when you yourselves cannot be faithful to your faith?

I am not an expert on Canon Law. But I swear to God (my apologies to God and to swearing) your version of Canon Law is making us Canon Fodder.

Respect separation of powers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER, THIS COLUMN DISAGREED WITH THE idea of a P50-million lobby contract with the Baltimore-based firm Venable, entered into by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales (later rescinded due to the controversy it stirred), even if the funds are supposedly coming from private sources and not from government, as he had said. I opined that if that lobby fund was intended mainly to campaign for support abroad for Charter change, that looked odd. For it's here at home that any kind of lobbying ought to be done, as the ignorance of many Filipinos about the merits of the proposed shift to a parliamentary/federal form of government constitutes the major stumbling block to Charter change.

But I agree with the Palace and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that the Senate's detention of the national security adviser for his refusal to answer certain questions is a serious breach of the constitutional principle of separation of powers between the two branches of government.

* * *

As the justice secretary has argued, a Cabinet member cannot be compelled to appear before a congressional inquiry without the express permission of the President. This is a time-honored principle, and by the same token, though to a much lesser degree, a military officer cannot appear before such an inquiry without the express permission of the AFP chief of staff. Under this principle, I would imagine that if the Cabinet member should refuse to answer any question about his official actions, the legislative body would have to respect this, since he is not just an ordinary citizen summoned by the Senate, but an alter ego of the President.

* * *

Gonzales is the first Cabinet member to be detained by the legislature. This is because previous legislatures have respected this principle of co-equality and separation of powers among the branches of government. The present Senate has been exhibiting very muddled thinking lately about its powers and prerogatives under the Constitution or what it can or cannot do in aid of legislation. Earlier, former Senate President Jovito Salonga criticized the chamber for allowing just about any shady character to besmirch the reputation of anyone during Senate hearings conducted in full view of the media, without screening properly the "evidence" to be presented. The Senate's actions demonstrate to all and sundry that this once august body seems to have become irrelevant. The Senate's arrogance may, however, be in reality a sign of its deep insecurity, as it probably realizes that in the minds of many citizens, it has become an expensive anachronism.

At the House plenary voting on the impeachment case, Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin called for political reform through an urgent shift to a federal/parliamentary system, which to my mind should have a unicameral legislature. The sooner this is effected, the better for the country.

* * *

I'm saddened by the defiant attitude of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay toward the call from various groups, among them the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to stop the rallies in Makati as they are affecting businesses there. The Palace has adopted a hard stance against rallies and the Catholic bishops have supported it. Binay should heed the call of various groups, as Makati owes its spectacular success to the business community. The least he could do is give business a healthy climate to operate in. Instead Binay is blinded by his loyalty to former President Joseph Estrada, and has vowed to continue the rallies against GMA in Makati, even if this would affect business badly.

* * *

Opposition Rep. Clavel Martinez of Cebu and some lawyers have filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking to nullify the House decision junking impeachment complaint on the ground that the process was not properly handled. It's doubtful, however, if the SC would intervene, for as the nation saw, the process was transparent and in full accordance with the Constitution, House rules and the realities of representative democracy, where majority rule prevails. Besides, I suspect the SC would uphold the principle of separation of powers among the branches of government, unlike the Senate.

* * *

In this space, I have sought to analyze the reasons for the opposition's failure to push the impeachment case. One was the realization of GMA's House allies that the Senate would function like a kangaroo court, where the opposition has been reinforced by her former allies, led by Senate President Franklin Drilon. House leaders felt that a Senate trial would paralyze the nation and the economy, since it could last for a year. Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, one of the lawyers in the House who deftly handled the anti-impeachment moves, urged his colleagues to go back to the business of legislating crucial bills. Among those that have been shelved due to the impeachment case despite Palace certification are the anti-terrorism bill and the bill creating the Department of Housing, authored by Parañaque Rep. Ed Zialcita.

* * *

One major reason the House threw out the impeachment case was the majority's concern that a protracted trial could damage the economy further. During the voting, many congressmen expressed their worry about the impact of the expanded VAT law on prices, as well as the repercussions of higher oil prices, As Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio put it during the voting, "My constituents are looking for remedies to poverty and the spiraling of prices." With the huge damage to the US economy wrought by the two killer hurricanes, their move to kill the complaint is vindicated. For any slowing down of the US economy due to a widening budget deficit, now aggravated by the need to reconstruct damaged areas, is bound to affect the Philippines.

(To be continued)

China's struggling public intellectuals

COMMENTARY

Merle Goldman

IS CHINA'S POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT LOOSENING up, or is the government cracking down?

It's hard to tell. President and Communist Party General Secretary Hu Jintao sometimes seems to be going both ways simultaneously.

For example, Hu has decided to honor the memory of his mentor, former General Secretary Hu Yaobang, in order to burnish his aura as a reformist. But, in many ways, Hu Jintao's tenure as the head of the fourth generation of Communist leaders, which began when he became party secretary in 2002, differs sharply from that of his mentor.

Hu Yaobang was a founder of the China Youth League, regarded as a relatively liberal institution in the People's Republic, who in the 1980s promoted political reforms and rehabilitated virtually all the victims of the Mao Zedong's purges. By contrast, the younger Hu has narrowed the public space for political discourse that had opened up during the latter years of his predecessor, Jiang Zemin, when market pressure was forcing media outlets to be more daring and wide-ranging.

Since taking over, Hu Jintao has arrested a number of outspoken journalists in an effort to rein in the media. His government has also detained an array of public intellectuals who have been critical of its policies, including cyber-dissidents Liu Di and Shi Tao (who was arrested thanks to Yahoo's collaboration with the police in identifying him) and freelance writers Yu Jie and Liu Xiaobo. Military doctor Jiang Yanyong was detained in 2003 after he publicly rebutted the Communist Party's assertion that the SARS epidemic had been brought under control. In 2004, he was placed under surveillance when he called on the Party to revise its judgment of the 1989 Tiananmen demonstration.

Hu's tightening of controls over political discourse and the media intensified with the publication in September 2004 of a list of "Top Fifty Public Intellectuals" in Southern Weekly. The list, dominated by intellectuals who in the 1990s had called for freedom of speech and political participation, appeared with the statement: "This is the time when China is facing the most problems in its unprecedented transformation, and when it most needs public intellectuals to be on the scene and to speak out."

On Nov. 23, 2004, an article in the Shanghai Party Committee's orthodox Liberation Daily disagreed. It attacked the concept of "public intellectuals," claiming that their "independence drives a wedge" between intellectuals and the party and between intellectuals and the masses.

Hu's leadership has tried to draw public attention to the growing gap between rich and poor. But its reaction to the book "A Survey of Chinese Peasants," which is based on interviews over several years with farmers in the poor province of Anhui, was a telling reminder that public intellectuals are not welcome to contribute to that effort.

The authors, the husband-and-wife team of Chen Guidi and Wu Chuntao, who spent their early years in the countryside, described in detail the imposition of unfair taxes by local officials and the authorities' rapacious seizure of land farmed by rural residents. The increasingly impoverished lives of peasants that the book vividly documented resulted from the very abuses of power that Hu Jintao had declared himself to be against. Yet, in February 2004, one month after its publication, "A Survey of Chinese Peasants" was banned.

Hu's government has also tightened controls over the media. Reports on peasant and worker demonstrations against corrupt officials and illegal property confiscations have been banned. Those who dare to protest, such as Beijing University journalism professor Jiao Guobiao, are silenced.

Similarly, Wang Yi, a law lecturer at Chengdu University who called for freedom of speech and association, was barred from teaching. The liberal journal Strategy and Management was closed down. Even the editor in chief of China Youth Daily, the newspaper affiliated with Hu Jintao's own China Youth League power base, which had been aggressive in exposing official corruption, was recently detained.

Hu Jintao's rule is not a return to the Mao Zedong era. Despite the regime's vast means of censorship, its embrace of new communications technologies like the Internet make it increasingly difficult for the party to maintain effective control over people's views.

Moreover, persecution of political dissenters does not now reach far beyond the accused to involve their associates. While scores have lost their positions and others have been imprisoned, most are briefly detained and then allowed to find other jobs in China's burgeoning civil society.

By comparison with the late 1990s, however, the space for political discourse has undeniably narrowed, crushing expectations that the country would continue on a liberalizing course. Hu Jintao may have made a genuflection to his more liberal mentor, but in the two decades since the elder Hu's fall from power, even as private space has expanded, China has become a politically far less open society. *—Project Syndicate*

Merle Goldman is the author of the forthcoming book "From Comrade to Citizen: The Struggle for Political Rights in China" and an associate of the Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies at Harvard.

More disasters

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE WERE TWO DISASTERS AT SEA DURING that fateful year of 1600. One was the battle with the Dutch outside Mariveles, near Fortune Island, that resulted in the death of Fr. Diego de Santiago and Brother Bartolome Calvo, both of the Company. (Understandably, the Dutch have a different take on this encounter than the Friar Chronicles, but since we don't read Dutch, Frisian, Saxon, Franconian, Bavarian or Swabian, we can't tell. Doubtless it wasn't complimentary.) At the end of October 1600, Oliver van Noordt, the first Dutch circumnavigator of the globe (who was referred to as a Dutch pirate by the Spaniards, not to mention heretic), left Holland with eight vessels commissioned by a private company to look for trade possibilities in South America and the Orient. Before reaching the Americas, he had lost five of his ships. His admiral was Lamberto Biesman, another "heretic" like him. (You have to understand this was the 17th century and Catholics were traumatized by the schisms that had taken place in the Low Countries of Europe.) Off California, he was able to fix his ships by dismantling the third and using its parts.

Not familiar with the route through the San Bernardino Strait, he entered Philippine territory through the Cape of Espiritu flying a Spanish pennant and pretending to be French. As a result Manila was not aware of the danger until much later.

He found a pilot to show him the *embocadero* (narrow channel) of Capul, sailed confidently through the cove of Bolinao, landed in Capul and anchored his ships. There an Englishman, John Calleway, a skillful musician, and a black he had captured in the coast of Mexico escaped or were kidnapped. Having drunk too much, they were caught by the natives presumably sleeping off a hangover, imprisoned in a cage and brought to Manila. The two confessed to the governor the intent and force of the Dutch. This gave the governor time to hatch some battle plans.

Van Noordt, after repairing his ships and replenishing his water supply, left Capul and sailed to Manila Bay, anchoring outside Bataan facing the city and guarding her entrance, effectively controlling the arrival and departure of vessels. He was able thus to capture some Chinese Sangleys and Japanese in their boats.

Two galleons were refitted in Cavite to do battle with him. The two ships, under the command of the Dr. Antonio de Morga, went off to meet him. (Morga was a doctor, crony of the governor and made captain although he knew squat about naval battles. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?) One of the ships was not well made and was being outfitted to leave for Mexico; the other was a new lateen-rigged vessel. Both were well equipped with artillery and there were some 300 Spaniards on board including some women.

As they left the port of Cavite, Morga received information that the enemy had lifted anchor and was sailing toward the shoals of Tuley. It was here in the region of Fortune Island that they were seen on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 14. With full sails, Morga's ships reached them quickly and battled side by side, luckily boarding the enemy ship since passage was unimpeded. Morga's men were able to take the Dutch standard and the Dutch sued for peace, although in the end Van Noordt was able to escape.

In the meantime, Morga's galleon began to take in water. The pilot realized the gravity of the situation and exhorted Morga to save the passengers by heading for a small island half a league away. At that moment, the ship was hit by a cannon ball. The pilot was thrown overboard and the passengers who could dove into the water. (Morga had wisely taken off in a lifeboat.)

A wounded Spaniard who had been hidden called out to Father Santiago to hear his confession. The priest, despite the danger, went to him as the ship began to tilt and sink. When he and Brother Bartolome dove into the water, they were sucked in by the whirlpool of the sinking ship. Other bodies were recovered and brought to Manila, but those of the two were never found.

Survivors clung to the planks of the dismembered ship, reaching out to those who were alive.

The losses consisted of artillery, ammunition and great riches of priceless objects, 109 Spaniards (many of the soldiers drowned because of their armor), 150 natives and blacks and other government people.

Thirteen persons were taken prisoner and the governor condemned them to death, according to Father Chirino. These were thieves, pirates and murderers. They were given time to convert and abjure their heresies whether Lutheran, Zwinglian or Calvinist. Twelve were converted but the admiral, who was an Englishman, died blaspheming the Faith. He was garroted and thrown into the sea. The rest were sorry for their sins and asked pardon, which didn't do them much good. The priests gave them communion, rather than freedom, which they received with tears in their eyes before they were executed. They died with rosaries around their necks and the seals of the crusades sewn on their chests, each holding a crucifix in his hands. Before their execution, they embraced the priests with much joy, grateful that they were paying for their sins, and thus they died with valor, leaving the Spaniards much edified (or so we're told). They were buried by the Cofradia de la Santa Misericordia.

(Data from Colin, "Labor Evangelico," quoting Chirino).

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Secret society

YOUNG BLOOD

Eduardo M. Tuason II

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD. IN 4TH grade, my best buddy and I formed a secret society. That was an odd step compared to what other children were doing, which was to form groups based on a popular children's TV series and naming themselves either "Shaider" or "Voltron." Our peers usually kept themselves busy making cardboard spaceships or communicating with imaginary space stations by whispering to their wrists.

Our group was somewhat eccentric. We founded it upon the inspiration of a lesson in our Hekasi (Heograpiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika) class. We named our selves KKK—for Kataastaasang, Kagalanggalang mga Kids—obviously a poor takeoff of the Katipunan.

The success of the society was overwhelming. We were able to recruit almost all of our classmates, except for five students who couldn't read at the time. We even formulated our own codes for communication (which we also used as cheating codes), a policy for conduct, secret handshakes and identification cards. My best buddy and I acted as if we were reincarnations of Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Jacinto. And we addressed each other as "*Ka.*"

A week before we could perform our version of the "Blood Compact," our society was discovered by school authorities. To this day I consider sitting in front of our guidance counselor the most troubling time of my life. All I could think of was finding out who squealed on us. I kept telling myself that traitors come in all ages.

Our principal, who belonged to the Stone Age, and our prefect, who was worse than a Nazi, confronted us in front of our stunned parents and labeled us as "gangsters." In irritation, I explained: "We were only being patriotic. We were not acting like punks."

Our principal's eyes glazed upon hearing such proof of our rebelliousness. We were meted out the appropriate sanctions. Thus at an early age, cynicism began to corrode my sense of idealism.

After a month of depression and lying low, my best buddy and I decided to form another group. But this time we settled for a more politically neutral name: Bioman.

It was not until I was in high school that I regained the spark of idealism. To read and study the "Noli" and "Fili" was invigorating. I broke out of the shell of apathy.

I was fortunate to play the role of Elias when our class did a short film based on "Noli Me Tangere" to fulfill a school requirement. Coincidentally, my best buddy played the same role for his section.

My rediscovered idealism seemed to grow after I watched GMA-7's rendition of "Jose Rizal" (I have a copy of its script signed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya) and read articles by Ambeth Ocampo. My friend and I swore as we watched the fireworks during the celebration of the Centennial of our Independence never to turn our back on the motherland.

Now it seems almost an eternity since I left the Philippines. My friend is dead-set on carrying on with his cause as a leftist, while I can be considered as a struggling capitalist, But while we may now be pose apart ideologically, we still share the same love and concern for the land of our birth. And every day that passes I thank God for moving me closer to the time when I will be going home.

Call me naïve, but I still believe in the resilience of our race. Behind my pursuit of higher education lies the dream of being able to teach in a university back home. The promise of living in a First-World country is tempting. But I ask myself, "How can I disregard my citizenship when I belong to race of great heroes?"

It has been said that idealism gives the youth an edge over their elders. But for me, idealism is what distinguishes the able from the lazy cynic. Idealism is never limited by age, education or social status. Idealism is the driving force for the aspirations we have. It's the reason for greeting each new day with a sense of hope and, without it, there would be little left for us to live for. A youth robbed of idealism is like a dehydrated body—just cold flesh.

Cynicism is a cataract that blurs our vision. It is an intellectual pretension passed off as real intelligence.

The constant cycle of political dynasties replacing other dynasties holds backs the rise of genuine idealism. But no matter how tightly *trapos* cling to their positions, this should never be a reason to lose hope. It should not stop us from inhaling the breath of life.

There's a line from "War of the Worlds" that I will always remember, which says: "When my body is ready, it will push (the splinter) out." The same analogy applies to us. When our people and our system is ready, it will push the *trapos* out of our lives.

Idealism is tough to handle. Only those who are steadfast in their principles and strong can overcome the frustrations that challenge it. That is why only a few nurture idealism in their hearts for long.

Those who do not believe that things can be done should not stand in the way of those who pursue change. Rizal put it this way: "Give way to the youth, so you will not be crashed."

Eduardo M. Tuason II, 22 is a room reservations agent at Hyatt Regency International in Guam.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Ads and progress

"Advertising remains a potent force that stimulates economic activity. Consumption starts with awareness and stimulation, which the advertising industry is tasked to accomplish. Aside from sheer financial size, a robust advertising industry reflects a progressive nation."

—AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez, saying that the Philippine Advertising Congress remains relevant in this time of political and economic crises, which the nation faces.

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Which NGOs have unliquidated funds?

THE CAUCUS OF DEVELOPMENT NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), an umbrella organization of 10 national NGO networks with more than 2,000 affiliates nationwide, shares Rep. Rolando Andaya's concern about the increasing amount of government funds that remain unliquidated by some NGOs. Since NGOs and people's organizations (POs) demand greater transparency and accountability from government, they must demand no less from themselves.

CODE-NGO requests Representative Andaya, chairperson of the appropriations committee of the House of Representative, to immediately put the NGOs/POs and the government agencies concerned under investigation. In an INQUIRER report, Andaya said the government funds that the NGOs failed to liquidate grew from P3 billion in 2003 to P4.8 billion at the end of 2004. He also said that the departments with the biggest unliquidated NGO funds were the Department of Agriculture (P1.05 billion) and the Department of Health (P1.04 billion).

CODE-NGO suggests that government disclose the list of the NGOs with unliquidated funds, the amounts involved, the nature and location of the projects and other details. CODE-NGO vows that if any of its member NGO/PO is in the list, it would help ensure that the organization in question immediately explain and provide the government with the necessary reports; and that if any of its members is unable to satisfactorily liquidate the funds given them, it would help bring the NGO/PO concerned before the bar of justice. Under its code of conduct, CODE-NGO must expel erring members.

At the same time, CODE-NGO asks Congress and the executive department to review the laws and policies concerning government programs and projects which involve the giving of financial assistance to NGOs/POs in order to exclude "fly-by-night NGOs." It is common knowledge that unscrupulous individuals put up NGOs, cooperatives and associations or use inactive but still registered organizations to access government funds for their personal use.

Among the reasons CODE-NGO was formed in 1991 was the need to thwart the proliferation of fly-by-night NGOs. In the last decade or so, the rapid growth and the higher visibility of civil society organizations in many countries have put under a cloud of doubt the accountability, transparency, internal governance and ultimately, the legitimacy of NGOs. Governance is indeed a critical issue facing the civil society sector, as it does government and business. CODE-NGO calls on its partners and colleagues in civil society to make themselves more accountable and transparent.

—SIXTO DONATO MACASAET, executive director, Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), 2F Center for Community Services Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The sky in the hands of women

WE COMMEND THE INQUIRER FOR ITS Sept. 15 editorial, reminding the public that this year is the centennial of the feminist movement in the Philippines and the 68th anniversary of Filipino women's suffrage.

The lives of women like Haydee Yorac, incorruptible and fearless, continue to mark the pages of history. Together with 26 other Filipino women, Yorac was nominated for the 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize. Her legacy of excellence, dedication and integrity in public service is a most precious tribute to the struggle of early Filipino women for greater involvement in nation-building.

We trust that the centennial celebration will continue to inspire and motivate us to overcome the remaining biases against women's capacities to lead and participate. Let us not rest our advocacies to influence important national issues that traditionally seek the male perspective; Women as mothers, sisters, wives, workers and conscientious citizens offer creative and practical solutions to matters of national interest, like poverty and anti-corruption, peace, and conflict resolution, and even constitutional reform.

As we live through the National Peace Consciousness Month this September, we recognize women as builders of peace. The United Nations Resolution 1325 urges member-states to ensure women's increased representation in conflict resolution and peace processes, and the inclusion of a gender perspective in all peace-related efforts.

We continue to count on the women in all peace panels to relentlessly put forward the innate wisdom of women in the peace process. Women should occupy a space in negotiations to end wars that result in families—especially women and children—being abandoned, dispersed and dislocated; that feed on men's exertion of authority through physical, sexual, and economic abuse, prostitution, and other forms of gender-based violence; that increase women's burdens as they struggle to survive and rebuild their lives and their communities.

Yes, there are gains to celebrate in the past one hundred years which can inspire us into the future. Let us continue to create the enabling environment where women can harness their powers for peace-building and national development. After all, to paraphrase a poet, half of the sky is in their hands.

—EMMELINE L. VERZOSA, executive director, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, 1145 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila

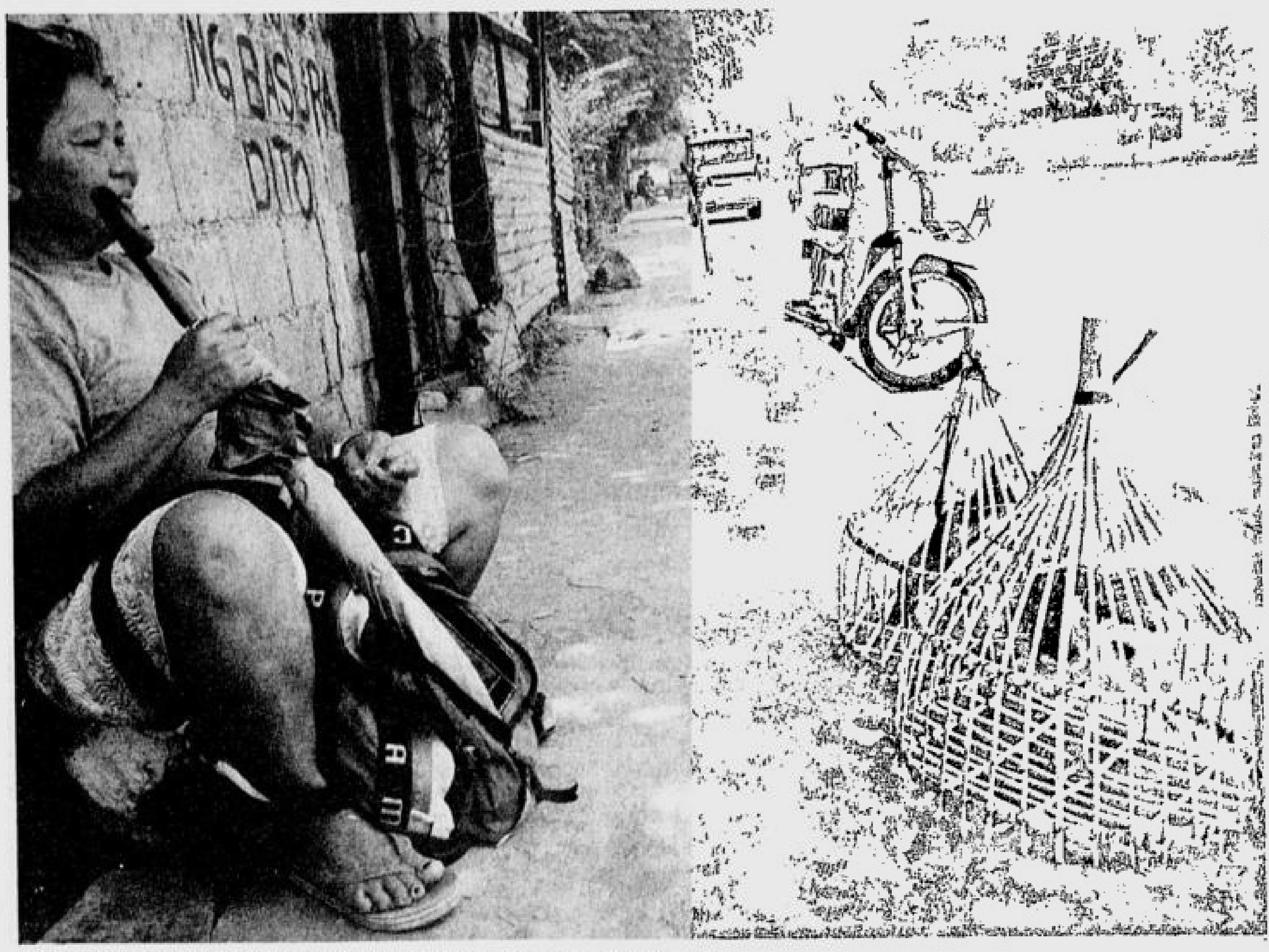
Political dirt in bishops' hands

POLITICS IS DIRTY BUSINESS. POLITIcians can turn anything, even a lie, into "truth." Anyone who goes into politics will be tainted and corrupted. Proof? Look at some Catholic bishops. They meddle in the political affairs of the State and now their ability to judge has been tainted. They make receiving *jueteng* money, for the sake of the poor, a moral act, even if it comes from immoral means.

The bishops forgot their Moral Theology: the end does not justify the means. Otherwise, Machiavelli would have been declared a saint, or maybe a theologian. For God's sake, why don't we put these bishops at the helm of the State and let them run this country in terms of moral or immoral. Forget about the Constitution.

Let's replace it with the Bible. But as I said at the start, being tainted with the dirt of politics, these bishops will run this country to the ground, just like our current politicians. They really are no better. The Philippines has been "christianized" for 500 years and what has the Catholic Church got to show for it? Nothing. Except that the only Catholic country in Asia is also the most corrupt.

—MARK SESCON, mksesc@yahoo.com



THE SALE of endangered birds like the grass owl continues unchecked.

A 'face' on endangered species

THE PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATment of Animals (Peta) commends the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' effort to "put a face" on endangered species. ("Endangered species placed on wanted list," PDI, 9/08/05)

As a "megadiverse" country, the Philippines has a responsibility to protect endangered animals that are killed illegally for food or sport, or forced out of their natural habitats by "development." Educating the people about these animals is a good first step, which must be followed by the enactment of a law imposing stricter punishment for poaching and illegal animal trafficking.

Peta hopes that eventually everyone will recognize that all animals—not just the endangered ones—are thinking and feeling beings whose needs deserve to be considered. To learn more about Peta and our efforts to protect wildlife and their natural habitats, visit PETA.org.

—HEIDI RENÉE JURY, HeidiJ@peta.org, Staff Writer, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510

Not a recipient of Aquino's FBI files

MAY I CORRECT A STATEMENT MADE by Winnie Monsod in her Sept. 17 column, naming me as one of five individuals who admitted having received classified FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) information that were passed on by Filipino national Michael Ray Aquino.

I am not a recipient of any such information, and has publicly denied a highly speculative tabloid report, repeated on radio several times, that I was a possible recipient. I do not even know Aquino.

The allegation was obviously a trial balloon. The tabloid did not name its source, and there was no effort to confirm it with me prior to its publication.

—FRANCISCO S. TATAD, chair, Citizens vs. Corruption Task Force, citacor@gmail.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

NFA 'decoupling' betrayal of people

THE ISSUE ON RICE, THE FILIPINOS' staple food, which accounts for 28 percent of our food consumption, deserves extra attention from the government. But it's not getting so. The biggest slice of the national budget goes to debt servicing at the expense of such essential sectors as agriculture. No wonder, rice farmers are clamoring for increased subsidy, reduced price of farm inputs, easy access to credit, more or improved irrigation facilities and high support price for palay.

If there are those who are benefiting from the present rice policies of the government, they can only be the big time grains traders or the fertilizer and pesticide dealers, definitely not the small farmers and farm workers who, like the rest of the 80 percent Filipinos, are wallowing deeper in poverty.

Thus, the dream for rice self-sufficiency could become a nightmare. What is proper, is to have a sustainable rice policy insulated from world market price and supply volatility. And a policy that would ensure genuine food security.

By genuine food security we mean that domestic rice production can amply sustain our own food requirement and our small farmers and farm workers derive decent income from rice farming.

It is only sad to note that the present WB-IMF-ADB-USAID-dictated rice policy directions of the government are geared toward rice trade liberalization, the emaciation of the NFA (National Food Authority) mandate, and the dilution of the Philippine rice agriculture policies. These moves could ruin our rice industry. Focusing on rice importation rather than boosting local rice production is a clear disincentive to our farmers.

The government, hell-bent on mangling the NFA mandate, would like to separate its proprietary and regulatory functions. Bills to this effect have been filed in Congress and are now subject of committee hearings. If "decoupled," the NFA's "grains intervention mechanism" (system to stabilize grains supply and prices) would lose its flexibility. The effectivity of the mechanism has been proven in the 33 years that it has been in use. If the 1995 rice crisis happened, it was because the focus of the NFA then was to act as a service corporation, setting aside buffer stocking. Every sitting president—from Manuel Luis Quezon to Ferdinand Marcos—who decoupled grains agencies experienced rice crises.

It is therefore imperative, that the NFA be strengthened not weakened. It would be a betrayal of the poor, who are now reeling from the skyrocketing prices of basic commodities and services, and from joblessness or low income, if they are deprived of access to affordable rice in the market.

Ironically, NFA people, who play a major role in ensuring food security for the people, are facing the threat of losing their jobs because of the thrust toward decoupling.

—ROMAN M. SANCHEZ, national president, National Food Authority Employees Association (NFA-EA) COURAGE, 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City

INQBOX

Should Ferdinand Marcos be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani? Why or why not?

Definitely not! Libingan ng mga Bayani is for heroes. Marcos was not a hero, he was a dictator.
He killed thousands..
—Ronel Rondubio, 17, *Bacolod City*

Forever No! Ang mga Marcoses ang naging modelo sa korupsyon ng ilan sa mga pulitiko at opisyal ng gobyerno.
—Nolan Ariola, 30, *Pasig*

No, because Libingan as it name denotes, is for Bayani, not TRAITOR.
—Camilo Cahilig, 40, *Legazpi City*

Just remember this name: BENIGNO ninoy AQUINO JR.
Period.
—john fajardo, 33, *camalig, albay*

Of course not. He (Marcos) is not a hero 4 me.
He is a murderer.
—melvin jasper r. Galicia, 29, *naga city*

Yes, because even if he was politically corrupt,
but in the hearts of the masses he was considered hero.
—Philip tampus, 27, lapu-lapu

AGREE! Bec. naglingkod cia sa ating bansa for 20 yrs.
At marami syang ngawang proyeto na naka2long sa ekonomiya..
—zenaida caguioa, *urdaneta city*

I DISAGREE, kasi ISA SYANG KAHIHIYAN ng BANSA na DAPAT NATING IBAON sa NAKARAAN at din na PAMARISAN. Ang LIBINGAN ng Mga BAYANI ay para sa mga TAONG NAGBUWIS ng BUHAY para ipakita sa mga susunod pang henerasyon na ang KAGITINGAN ay dapat IPAGMALAKI, at di ikakahiya.
—lani militante, 30, *antique*

Nope! Why? Is he a hero?
—Ayza Yap, 23, *lipa city*

YES, BURYNG Marcos in LNMB DOES not make him a "REAL" HERO, SO WATs D FUZ? 2 THINK of it, even RIZAL & BONIFACIO R Not BURIED der
—Amador aligaen, 66, *iloilo*

NO, d Filipino pipol had alredi given marcos d honor by not shooting him against d wall n 1986.
Burying him in Libingan, not only a grave insult, but will kill d very essence of being called a Filipino hero.
—armond ferriols, 40, *batangas cty*

Know d definition of bayani (hero), and U wil certainly know d answer.
—Roquella de Ausen, 25, *angeles*

Why r we stil talking of buryng marcos @ d libingan..?
d body in paoay is a wax figure insyd a refrigeratd box!
—Lou de Leon, *qc*

Let us stop political bickering..
—Jose T Ferrer, 55, *Samp. Mla.*

NO, I DONT AGREE THAT FERDINAND MARCOS be BURIED at the LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI BECAUSE he is NEVER A HERO.
A hero is one with outstanding achievements. If Marcos is a hero, then Hitler is a hero, or make Judas a saint too. Marcos' war medals were all fake, as proven.
—Socrates L. Derecho, 49, *Naga, Cebu*

Yes, why should i give a fuss on d burial of F. Marcos when in fact der were some crooked men buried at the Libingan?
—gerry singson, *vigan city*

No, simply because he is not a hero. Do U think one can be called a hero after all d crimes he had done to his fellowmen? I don't think so...
—Manny G. Yap, 20, *Cebu*

I don't agree. You cannot call him Hero with an EDSA revolution in our history against him, supported by the Church..
—Anabelle Napoles, 27, *cavite*

As 4 me pwde cguro pero ibahin nalng ang pangalang gawin nlng "Libingan ng mga bayani at ebapa"..
—Herbert laguna, 35, *cagayan de oro city*

No, i dont agree, kc di naman dakila at kabayanihan ang ginawa nya sa ating mamamayan noon.
—Gary tindoc, 28, *cagayan de oro city*

agree kc ms mrmi xang ncon3bute as a lider ng bnsa. bilang nagng isang pangulo..
—marites alipio, 32, *urdaneta city*

NO! For 20 years, Marcos had all the chances 2b a great President, but he chose to be a dictator, and be ousted in shame from Malacanang. NO! D Libingan ng mga Bayani has no place 4 DICTATORS & FAKE HEROES! Dey r for departed ones like NINOY, ROCO & YORAC who really deserve to be buried there.
—gigi sicat, muntinlupa

NO, di dapat payagan ilibing sa Libingan ng mga Bayani ang isang diktador matapos ang ginawa sa Pilipinas, ganyan na lang.
—Hacker, 24, valenzuela city

No, i dont agree! He doesnt have d criteria of being
a hero, like what Rizal has. Like the love of country...
—Jason, 20, *bulacan*

i agree, let us stop dwelling on the past instead focus forward, be watchful coz the living is more dangerous.
—JOHN ANDRI CUNANAN, 16, *general santos city*

NO! bcoz wen he was still a President, many Filipinos suffered & died in his DICTATORSHIP.
—Reanto Sardea, 41, *Lantad, naga cebu*

yes. bcoz he is stil 1 of d pres. of d repblc of d phils. evndo he declared martial law, doesnt mean ur disregarded as 1 of d pres of d Phil.
—Richard, 18, *bacolod city*

FM shud not be buried der bcoz he is one of d most corrupt leaders dat existed in dis world.
—Art Cabrera, *pque*

dapat lang naging presidente sya, he should b respected at kung wala cya, hindi mamumulat ang tao sa mga kagaguhan ng govt.
—annie dela cruz, 50, *tagum city*

No, His good accomplishments cannot compensate for d drowning debt we have, due 2 his greedy Acts.
—philia joy gaitana, 27, *Iloilo city*

Di cya dapat ilibing sa Libingan ng mga Bayani kasi cya at si Imelda ang dahilan ng sobrang paghihirap sa karamihan ng Pilipino ngayon.
—Normilita S. Nillos, 31, *Quezon City*

NO! it was really a very dark period of d Philippine history. A dictator and human-rights violator like him..
—Alfredo Magandan, Jr., 22, *Tagum city*

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Bicol execs deny 'jueteng'

LEGAZPI CITY—CHIEF SUPT. VICTOR BOCO, BICOL police director, yesterday denied allegations by confessed former *jueteng* operator Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor that the illegal numbers game *jueteng* had resurrected in some parts of the Bicol region in the form of the EZ2 game of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Boco said that no organized nor guerrilla-type *jueteng* operations exist in the region.

Mayor earlier told the INQUIRER that in Albay, a "modified version" of JUETENG was being played and made similar to the legal EZ2 game of the PCSO.

Boco said the Bicol regional police office has been religiously submitting certifications signed by chiefs of police, parish priests and local chief executives of the different cities and municipalities every 15th and 30th of the month that there is no JUETENG operation in their areas of responsibility.

He said his office is unwavering in its stand in preventing the resurgence of *jueteng* as he issued an order to all field commanders to monitor suspected *jueteng* operators and ensure that *jueteng* is a thing of the past in the Bicol region.

Guinobatan, Albay Mayor Juan Garcia, president of the Albay Mayors League, said there is no *jueteng* or other form of illegal numbers game in Albay province as claimed by Mayor. *Leo Martin Ganace, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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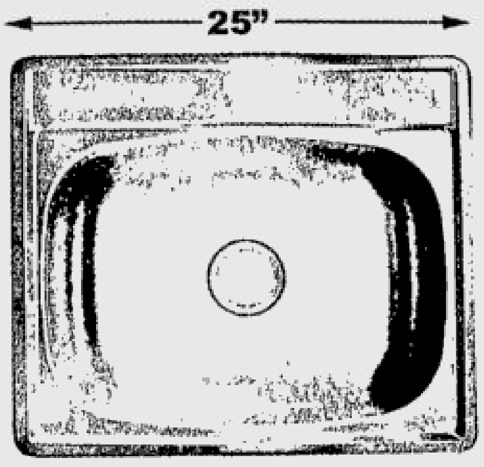

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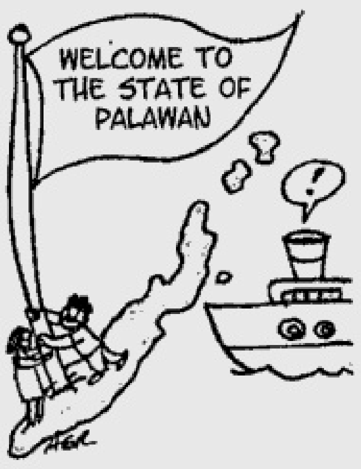
Palawan starts own bid to convert self to a federal state


WELCOME TO THE STATE OF PALAWAN

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—PALAWAN would rather dance its own version of Cha-cha.

While President Macapagal-Arroyo sought to start the debate on Charter change and the ensuing proposal for the adoption of the parliamentary-federal system of government, officials here have started the discussion on the establishment of a Palawan Federal State.

Today, Gov. Joel Reyes is expected to sign Provincial Ordinance No. 872, series of 2005, approving the Ordinance calling for the creation of the Palawan Statehood Movement (PSM).

The signing ceremony will also serve as the launching of the Palawan Statehood Movement, which is mandated to spearhead, initiate, receive and formulate proposals for the establishment of Palawan as one federal state.

The resolution said there is a prompt and "clear necessity" for the creation of the movement, as Palawan aims to support the federal system of government that Ms Arroyo mentioned as a possible consequence in the event of Charter change.

Under the current proposal, a federalized state may be made up of clusters of local government units, unlike a region that is composed of several provinces and component cities.

If Palawan becomes a state, it will have "a wider autonomy, decentralized and expanded powers on governance, on resource development, and utilization, on fiscal and revenue measures, on education, health, police and other socially-beneficial measures," the resolution said.

This will result in "greater flexibility and more immediate and direct response and delivery of basic services to the people," it added.

The PSM will be composed of Palawan officials and representatives from the legal sector, non-government organizations, the various leagues of municipal, barangay and youth officials, and the media.

Aside from oil and gas deposits, Palawan has some of the most extensive forests and coral reefs in the country as well as mineral reserves.

The measure was authored by Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon and Board Member Arthur Ventura and co-authored by the entire members of the Palawan provincial board.

"In the event of the adoption of the parliamentary-federal system of government, we have to start the discussion now and work together toward the realization of a Palawan Federal State," he said.

He added that Palawan could become a state even without its share of the contested proceeds from the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas Project.

Palawan officials said they fear that if nothing was done, the province might just wake up one day finding itself attached to a federal region. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Land disputes delay claims of farmers

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—INDIGENOUS communities and farmers in the province may have to wait a little longer before their ancestral land claims and agrarian land titles are officially recognized and released by the government, officials here said.

The culprits for the delay, they said, were unresolved political boundary disputes and the absence of an official local government land policy amid the delineation of ancestral domains and agricultural farm lots.

These various boundary conflicts have put on hold the issuance of certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADT) to communities and agrarian patents to farmer beneficiaries, they said.

The provincial consultative body of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples has requested the provincial board to convene a Benguet land congress to formulate a clear policy on ancestral domains.

Lawyer Leilene Marie Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP Cordillera director, said the commission was in dire need of such policy to facilitate the completion of the ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plan (ADSDPP) for indigenous communities.

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) required that an ADSDPP must be provided for all indigenous communities as part of the government's recognition of ancestral land tenures, Gallardo said.

She said the National Power Corp., as part of the concession to build the San Roque multi-purpose dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan, had earmarked P50 million for the completion of the ADSDPP as an NCIP project for Benguet's 13 towns.

However, she said the boundary disputes had contributed much to the delay of the ADSDPP completion.

The land congress, she said, would boost efforts to complete the project in time for the June 2006 deadline.

The boundary disputes have also been identified by the provincial agrarian reform coordinating committee as the main culprit behind the delay in the titling of farmlands to qualified farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

In a resolution submitted to the provincial board, the committee said these boundary rows had frustrated a lot of farmers whose lands were caught between municipalities fighting over boundary lands.

Gov. Borromeo Melchor said these boundary problems had derailed the province's efforts to come up with a well-sustained growth plan. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Kaisahan ng Mamamayan para sa Bayan
(KAISAMBAYAN)

Tribe warns of threat from logs

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GENERAL NAKAR, QUEZON—Thousands of drifted logs are still scattered in the upper tributaries of the Agos River in the bosom of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges posing another threat to lowland communities, the indigenous Dumagat tribe warned.

"There are still plenty of scattered logs up there, in several tributaries of Agos river, probably still millions of board feet waiting to be collected and hauled down to assure the safety of lowlanders. We fear that those logs could roll down again and create another calamity," Bayani Azcarraga, Dumagat tribal leader, said.

The tribe members refuted the findings of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources during its recent aerial survey that what were left of the drifted logs were only good for firewood.

"Apparently, what the DENR official had seen was the long stretch of Agos River, which had been naturally cleaned up of drifted logs because of previous strong rains," said Thelma Aumentado, Dumagat tribal governor.

"What we're referring are those pile of logs along several river tributaries upstream of the river in the upper portion of the mountain."

"Those drifted logs could not be seen from the helicopter," she said.

She urged DENR officials to visit their villages to personally see the volumes of drifted logs that need to be gathered and disposed of.

"We're just waiting for the documentor from our allied nongovernment organization to take videos and photos of the logs to support our claim," Aumentado said.

To reach the tribal villages of Sablang, Maligaya, Canaway and Pagsangahan in the bosom of Sierra Madre, one has to hike for five days, according to Azcarraga.

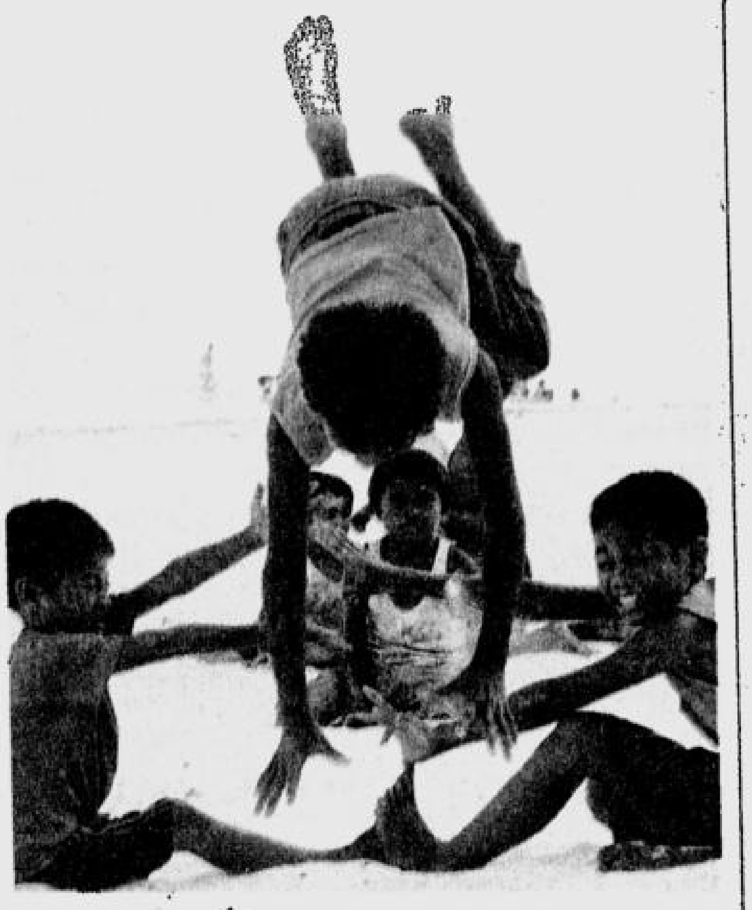
On Aug. 2, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor issued a memorandum allowing the retrieval and movement of logs and wood products in Quezon and Aurora for 60 days as part of the government disaster preparedness program.

The order expires on Oct. 2.

On Wednesday, during a meeting and dialogue between local officials, leaders of the wood-based industry and the DENR, the Dumagats expressed the most vocal argument for the extension of the order.

"Due to severe lack of financial resources, we have yet to dispose of the millions of board feet of drifted logs still scattered around our tribal communities," according to Aumentado.

She said they need capital to cut the drifted logs, move them down through the Agos River and transport them to their buyers in Manila.



PLAYTIME NILO ALTERADO/CONTRIBUTOR
Children use the beach of Malapascua in Daanbantayan, Cebu as a playground.

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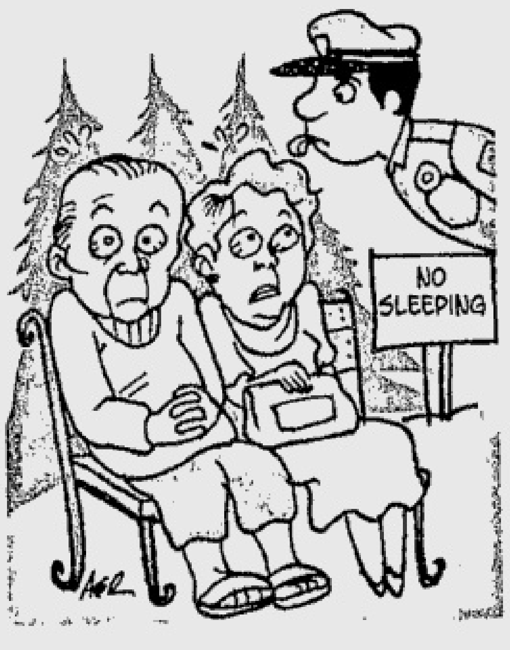
Dad seeks measure banning sleeping in Baguio streets, parks

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



BAGUIO CITY—A city councilor is pushing for a law making it illegal to sleep in parks and streets in the country's summer capital.

The city's parks, including the renowned Burnham Park, which was designed by American architect Daniel Burnham, have become transient homes for backpacking tourists, who prefer the outdoors to the city's expensive hotels.

But the chair of the city council's human rights committee junked the proposed measure because, he said, the rule is so broad it violates civil rights.

"Sleeping is a right, too," said Councilor Jose Molintas.

Vagrants

Molintas said the ordinance, proposed by Councilor Leandro Yangot, may unwittingly compel authorities to also penalize psychotic vagrants who live on sidewalks.

Baguio's population of the homeless has grown from six in 2002 to 12 by 2004 because the city has no transient medical houses for the mentally ill.

Two vagrants were found dead on Monday morning, one near a park maintained by the Philippine Postal Corp. while the other was found inside a subdivision.

Drawing from case studies submitted by tourism and business groups, Yangot said his proposal addresses the security issues raised by convention organizers and other local governments.

Disturbance

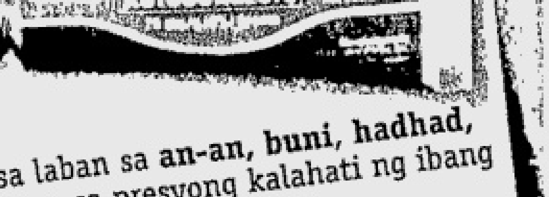
He said visitors have been disturbed by the number of people who sleeps daily on park benches.

"They have concluded that Baguio is no longer safe because most of the people who make the parks their home appear to be '*tambays*' (thugs). They take up space in Burnham Park, the Athletic Bowl, Malcolm Square [at the center of downtown Baguio]. They call attention to visitors, who now refuse to walk through the parks at night," he said.

"I never intended to create a law that will criminalize the [psychotic vagrants]. I also did not intend to ostracize [backpacking tourists]," he added.

The proposed ordinance will apply to people who sleep inside the Baguio public market, where crimes notably rise after dark, he noted.

Bagong kabalikat sa sakit ng balat...



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P112	P56

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KALUSUGAN PARA SA BAYAN!

Senator, gov's men fight in Subic

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two groups of men identified with Sen. Richard Gordon and Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay almost broke into a violent confrontation on Sunday night as each party sought to secure Kalayaan 5000, the official home of the chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations and chief of the law enforcement division (LED), on Monday confirmed the 10 p.m. incident at the house still occupied by the family of former SBMA Administrator Alfredo Antonio.

According to Calimlim, the first group claimed to have received an order from newly appointed SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza to secure the house.

The second group, he said, claimed to secure it for newly designated SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga.

Interview

Calimlim, in a phone interview, did not say who those men were.

INQUIRER sources said five men in the first group were former SBMA security personnel when Gordon headed the free port.

The second group, composed of security personnel detailed with Magsaysay, was sent by SBMA Director JV Magsaysay, the governor's son, reportedly to bar Arreza from occupying the place.

CALIMLIM

Gordon denied having ordered any people to secure the place for Arreza, his former finance manager at the SBMA.

"Why would I do that?" he said.

The senator said he learned that former SBMA policemen tried to help Arreza transfer to the house being vacated by Antonio, his predecessor.

The Magsaysays did not reply to calls or text messages.

Investigation

Calimlim said an investigation was ongoing if these men were all armed. He said he rushed to the house and managed to settle the dispute amicably.

The first group came as the family of Antonio took out their last set of personal belongings. Antonio, now a member of the Bangko Sentral's Monetary Board, was not around, having left after last Friday's turnover rites with Salonga.

Salonga, reached by phone, said he has no intention to reside at Kalayaan 5000.

Before Antonio, the house was occupied by former SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo. Resigned SBMA Chair Francisco Licuanan did not use Kalayaan 5000 or maintain another house at the free port, coming there only for board meetings and other official functions.

Pullout

Gordon did not live in this house, preferring to use another that his family leases at the port. Until the pullout of the United States Navy in November 1992, it used to be the admiral's home there.

Salonga said he was reserving Kalayaan 5000 as the official residence of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Subic. Like in Clark, a grand place called the White House was reserved for Philippine presidents.

Calimlim said he had Kalayaan 5000 secured by LED personnel in keeping with Salonga's order to reserve it for Ms Arroyo and her party when they visit Subic.

"It's too big for me," Salonga said of the stately, fully-furnished house on Kalayaan Hill overlooking the southern area of the port.

That makes two homes for the President at Subic, the other being Villa 16 that was built in 1996 when 21 state leaders, including United States President Bill Clinton, held their Asia-Pacific Economic Summit in the freeport.

Migration peril to urbanizing towns, say execs

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—GOVERNMENT POPULATION experts are coaching urbanizing towns in the provinces about the perils of a population boom due to migration, to help improve living conditions in those areas.

The 2004 State of the Philippines Population Report focused on urban management. It said small urban towns are potential nesting grounds for imbalanced trade, uncontrolled population density and poverty that now plague megacities like Metro Manila, Ma. Aurora Quiray, Cordillera director of the Commission on Population, said.

Metro Manila has already started competing for business capital as rising population outpaces local resources, Quiray said.

She said small urbanizing towns have better chances of correcting urban migration compared to Baguio, which the 2004 report cited as one of the 14 cities nationwide with abnormal population density.

"In 2000, Baguio City had the highest number of people living in a square kilometer which [at 4,389 people] … is 17 times that of the national average," the latest population report said.

In the Cordillera, Popcom is ready to present these findings to the towns of La Trinidad in Benguet, Tabuk in Kalinga and Bontoc in Mt. Province.

The study said Bontoc "is archetypal of the tension between what is traditional and what is modern" because multi-story buildings and commercial complexes have started to displace traditional town centers.

The study said La Trinidad, the trading hub of vegetables supplied by Cordillera farmers, "bears the same urban problems of inadequate housing, waste management, vehicular traffic and rising criminality."

Quiray said developing better cities out of Cordillera urban towns is crucial because they have managed to conserve their agricultural resources as their business centers developed into commercial complexes.

Sharon Pawid, an aide of La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan, said the town has zoned out these agricultural fields as the town's prime business resource against intrusion by residential areas or business complexes.

But Pawid said La Trinidad has started to compensate by developing the largest ecological solid waste management system in the region.

She credited the town's urban growth to its role as the trading post for salad vegetables, which are sold to Manila markets.

Quiray said almost a fifth of the Cordillera's estimated 1.6 million population reside in Baguio, which has become a de facto administrative, service and trade center for the region and outlying provinces.

The region ranks high in annual growth rates due to Baguio, which hosts semiconductor firm Texas Instruments Philippines Inc., one of the largest exporters in the country today.

But Quiray said this growth is barely felt by communities outside the city.

style Filipino Dishes
UNIT 023 GROUND LEVEL RIGHT WING VERANDAH

ICE STORM
VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
This young artist chops a swan out of a block of ice for an ice sculpture exhibit that was mounted on Friday despite Typhoon "Labuyo" in Baguio. The exhibit tried to draw crowds to a Baguio mall, but the rains melted the sculptures eventually.

Dirty water kills 6 in Catanduanes

LEGAZPI CITY—SIX PERSONS DIED WHILE 178 other residents of San Andres, Catanduanes were hospitalized at the Juan M. Memorial District Hospital due to diarrhea allegedly caused by water believed to be contaminated by coliform bacteria Escherichia coli (E-coli).

San Andres Mayor Aly Romano identified the fatalities as Praxedes Romero, 56, and Jobert Bonagua, 3, both of Barangay Carangag; Rosemarie Somido, 16, of Barangay Divino Rostro; Jondi Manlangit, 7 months old, of Barangay Codon; Ella May Bañadera, 1 year old, of Barangay Puting Baybay, and Shiela Bongon, 2, of Barangay Cabcab.

Romano said the diarrhea outbreak started in August when water was contaminated by heavy rains.

San Andres was declared under a state of calamity on Sept. 14.

The barangays that were severely contaminated are Cabcab, Codon, Bagong Sirang, Bislig, Divino Rostro, Carangag and Puting Baybay.

Romano said the local government and district hospital were having a hard time providing medicines to the patients. *Michael Jaucian and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA rebs attack another cell site in Bohol

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—EIGHT SUSPECTED communist rebels on Sunday torched the cell site of Globe Telecommunications in a mountain village in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

The rebels, however, spared the cell site owned by Smart Telecommunications in Banat-I, Bool District in Tagbilaran, about 20 to 50 meters away from the Globe cell site, said Insp. Erlinde Bantugan, Bohol police investigation officer.

Initial police investigation showed that the rebels arrived in Banat-I on board a van at about 6 p.m. The van stopped between the two cell sites.

The police said a group of rebels approached Francisco Delsicoro, security guard of the Smart cell site while another group went to the Globe cell site guarded by Roldan Bernaldez.

Both guards initially thought that the rebels were policemen because they were in police uniforms. But to their surprise, the assailants disarmed them and separately tied them to an electric post.

The rebels then poured diesel fuel stored at the Globe cell site and set on fire its radio room, said Bantugan.

He said the fire destroyed the entire radio room, three generator sets and two units of microwave antenna. Before they left, he added, the rebels told the guards that they were members of the revolutionary movement.

The police station in Tagbilaran learned about the attack at about 8 p.m. after receiving a text message on a police hotline cell phone number from a concerned citizen.

Bantugan said they were looking into the possibility that the Globe cell site was torched because the company refused to pay revolutionary taxes.

The Globe Telecom had yet to release a statement on the attack, which happened a week after the Armed Forces Central Command sent 60 members of the Special Operations Team (SOT) tasked to solve the insurgency problem in Bohol until Dec. 31, 2005.

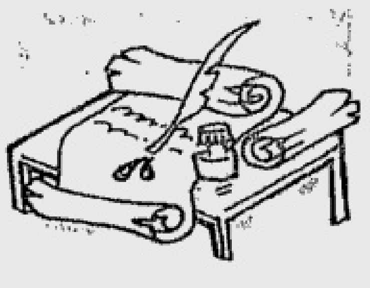
The SOT is a special team of soldiers trained, not only in combat operations and tactical offensives but also in conducting community relation activities like dialogues with residents.

ROUNDUP

6 held for hijacking

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Six men suspected of hijacking were arrested by the Calabarzon Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Marilao, Bulacan on Sept. 25. Deputy chief of the CIDG-Calabarzon Supt. Flaviano Baltazar said the raiding team caught some of the suspects, Cristino Abainza, his brother Adari, Nomar Lacsa, Alvin Lizarda, Lawrence Sy and Darius Sara, while unloading the cargoes of a truck inside the De Vera Village in Barangay Lias at about 1 a.m. The arrest came hours after the CIDG was alerted about the hijacking of a truck containing P1 million worth of Panasonic appliances in San Pedro, Laguna, he said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Consultative commissioners



DAVAO CITY—Federalism advocate Rey Magno Teves said he was elated at his appointment to the consultative commission that will undertake studies and make recommendations to help Congress amend the Constitution. Teves, convenor of Kusog Mindanao and Movement for a Federal Republic Philippines, said his presence in the consultative body brings hope for federalism to be tackled as one option to be adopted when Congress paves the way for a parliamentary form of government. Business leader Joji Ilagan-Bian and Lito Lorenzana, president of the Technical Assistance for the Development of Rural and Urban Poor (Tacdrup), were also personalities from Davao City named to the commission. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte could have been the fourth Davaoeño to compose the consultative body but he turned down his appointment. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-cop chief suspended

ROXAS CITY—A former police chief here has been ordered suspended for a month after he was found guilty of conduct unbecoming for berating the manager of a radio station in 2003. But Supt. Ildefonso Catedral, 65, retired from the service in May last year, more than a year after the National Police Commission handed down its suspension order on Aug. 15. The Napolcom decision stemmed from the complaint of Jay Lapaviez, then RMN dyVR station manager, that the then Roxas police chief threatened and harassed him inside the radio station on Aug. 26, 2003. Lapaviez alleged that Catedral went to the station to look for anchorman Jun Capulot, who had been critical of the police official, to challenge him to a fistfight. Since Capulot was not around, Lapaviez entertained Catedral but was berated instead. Honey Paredes, Napolcom director for Western Visayas, said in her five-page decision that Catedral's move to go to the radio station to confront his perceived adversary was a "clear indication of his state of moral character, causing dishonor or disgrace to himself as an officer and as a gentleman." *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Trader gets life for shabu

BACOLOD CITY—A salesman was meted a life sentence on Sept. 15 for selling 6.68 grams of shabu worth about P2,000 to a poseur policeman. Regional Trial Court Judge Edgar Garvilles ordered Joel Cordero Dumaigos to pay a fine of P500,000. Dumaigos was arrested in a buy-bust operation on Sept. 24, 2003 where he sold 6.68 grams of shabu from Senior Insp. Jimmy Fortaleza of the Bacolod police who posed as buyer. Court records show that Dumaigos testified that he was salesman and at the time that he was supposed to have been arrested by the police, he was in the house of a client collecting payment for mineral water. Judge Garvilles, however, did not give weight to his alibi, saying his denial could not overturn the testimony of the police officer who had no ill motive to testify falsely against him. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

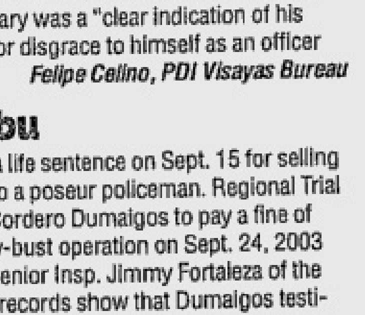
3 nabbed for drugs

ROXAS CITY—Three brothers, who were namesakes of three former Philippine presidents, were arrested for possession of illegal drugs. Quezon Aguirre, 42; and younger brothers Osmeña, 38; and Roxas, 35 were collared by the First Capiz Police Mobile Group and the Provincial Special Operation Group during a raid on their resident in Barangay 9 here on Sept. 16. Recovered were small sachets of shabu worth about P500 each, four big sachets of shabu worth about P3,000 each, six empty sachets with alleged shabu residue, disposable lighters, cellphone and other drug paraphernalia. The police said three brothers had long been suspected of being involved in illegal drug trade. Last year, the Aguirre house was also raided but no illegal substance was found. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

5 rob suspects slain

BACOLOD CITY—The leader and four members of a notorious robbery-holdup gang were killed in a shootout with the police on Sept. 22 in Talisay City, Negros Occidental. Killed were Moreto de la Cruz Artus, 42, and alleged leader of the gang; Rolly Palermo, Gerardo de la Cruz and two unidentified others. Negros Occidental police director Senior Supt. Charles Calima said the group was responsible for a series of robberies in Talisay, Silay City and E.B. Magalona town. Their whereabouts were discovered when the Talisay police headed by Insp. Jerry Barolemo received a tip on the presence of armed men in Hacienda Tibay-Lopez, Barangay Efigenio Lizares, Talisay. The police tracked down the group inside a house near a creek in the village. Calima said Barolemo told the suspects to come out and surrender but they responded by firing their guns at the police officers who fired back. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Call center training



PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial government signed a memorandum of agreement with a consultancy firm to tap local potential in the booming call center industry. The MOA stipulates that Donaldson Call Center Consultancy Corp. will provide a pilot call center training in Palawan to be coursed through the Provincial Employment Service Office. The province will shoulder the tuition of participants. More than 100 Palawan youth are expected to benefit from the program. The MOA was signed by Gov. Joel Reyes and Dennis Magat, managing director of Sure Connect Inc., a local representative of the consultancy firm.
Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

16-year stopover finally over

From page A1

nary—and made the weight limit.

The man had found a kind soul whose bags' weight allowance had room for his dear dictionary, Corcoran said.

The scene was common during the four hours it took for the Vietnamese to check in as they tried to figure out how they could bring as many personal belongings and mementos as they could.

End of long wait

"The people were helping each other, taking what the others couldn't in their bags. It was very nice. They didn't have to leave anything behind," Corcoran said.

"We are very, very happy," Vu Nguyen told reporters. "After a long wait, we will have our own home."

Sixteen years of waiting for a home in America left Phuong Vo, 46, weeping.

"I feel very happy," Vo said.

Nguyen's journey began in 1989 when his family left Vietnam by boat with 76 other people, spending weeks adrift in the South China Sea before they were found by fishermen and brought to a small island in the western Philippines.

Economic migrants

Nguyen initially thought his time in a refugee camp run by the United Nations would be brief before he would be reunited with his siblings, who had been relocated to Texas much earlier.

But as the waiting dragged on, at one point he felt his dreams of reaching the United States were gone when the UN camps in the Philippines were shut down in 1996 and his fellow Vietnamese scattered across the country.

The international community had called them "economic migrants" rather than political refugees fleeing a communist regime.

Philippines has been good

"We're thankful for our stay in the Philippines," Nguyen told reporters, saying they would never forget Filipino friends, local dishes they learned to prepare and even popular television shows they loved to watch.

Han Van Le, 45, said: "The Philippines has been very good to the Vietnamese people ... for a long time."

Hoi Trinh, a Vietnamese-Australian lawyer who helped the Vietnamese resettle in the United States, said more than 300 had been denied entry, including those with Filipino spouses. They will be allowed to stay in the Philippines, officials said.

"We're still trying to convince the Americans to take in the rest," Trinh told Reuters. "We're not giving up. We're also talking to authorities in Canada and Australia to try to accommodate some more of these stateless people."

Refugee status

He said about 500 Vietnamese had been resettled in Australia and Canada between 1996 and 2004. About 1.3 million who escaped by boat from Vietnam in the 1980s are now resettled in the United States, he added.

"All of them are excited to go to the United States," said Trinh, sending off his countrymen to fulfill their dreams.

Corcoran said that in the United States, the stateless Vietnamese people would be given "refugee status."

He said the Vietnamese were "[among] the most successful migrant groups in the US."

Corcoran said the next flight could take place in the next three weeks, but it would be a smaller group.

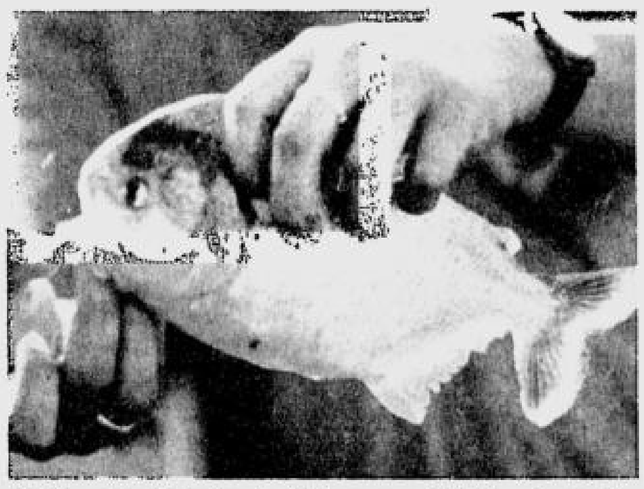
Fees waived

Authorities at the Manila International Airport Authority waived the P550 terminal fee for all the 229 passengers, 51 of whom were children who spoke fluent Tagalog, according to Dante Basanta of the authority's Public Affairs Office.

Basanta said the Miaa also did not charge ATA a parking fee because the trip was considered a "mercy flight." *(Witjh reports from Reuters and AP)*

THIS "boat people family" waits in breathless anticipation for the boarding call that will finally bring them to the land of their dreams—America. The first batch of 229 Vietnamese asylum seekers flew to Los Angeles yesterday from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. ROGER MARGALLO

TWO mean ones didn't get away. Naia Fisheries Quarantine Service chief Felipe Santamaria, left, and Naia District Customs Collector Ricardo Belmonte hold up two dead piranhas seized at the airport. The deadly fishes came from Peru. ROGER MARGALLO



THIS red-bellied piranha is the meanest of piranhas as it attacks its prey in the Amazon River basins in swarms. INTERNET PHOTO

Piranha shipment seized; one bites inspector's finger

From page A1

If it is any consolation to Trio, the 34 piranhas which came in a shipment from Amsterdam last weekend are now floating dead in their containers in the cargo area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"I was checking one of the boxes when suddenly something leaped out of it and bit me," Trio told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The lifeless, flesh-eating piranhas were shown to media by Naia Customs Collector Ricardo Belmonte and Fisheries Quarantine Service (FQS) chief Felipe Santamaria.

The piranhas died from lack of oxygen and Manila's sheer heat, Santamaria said.

An FQS report said four of the 34 piranhas were fully grown, each measuring 10-15 inches long. The smaller ones measured 4-5 inches.

The big ones weighed less than a kilo each.

Trio said one of the small piranhas bit him. His wound, nearly a half-inch long, was deep.

Like a *pla-pla*

At first glance, the dark silvery fish looked like grown "*pla-pla*." But the piranha, even a lifeless one, looks menacing, its sharp teeth protruding out of its thin mouth.

Piranhas come in different varieties. Using their sharp teeth, they are said to eat other fish, cattle and parts of humans.

Some people, perhaps intrigued by their reputation for viciousness, keep them in aquariums.

Trio said the piranhas intercepted at the Naia were "very active, with the small ones more ferocious," when they arrived at the Naia at around 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Ornamental fishes

Placed in thick plastic boxes and sealed, they were declared as "Live Ornamental Fishes."

Documents identified the shipper as one Ornamental Amazon Fish Aquarium located at Calle Brazil, 563 Iquitos, Loreto, Peru.

The consignee was identified as one Domingo Uy Jr., c/o Cygnus Industries Inc., located in Nagkakaisang Nayon, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Trio said the shipments were declared as "Discus," an ornamental fish, but the boxes were found, upon inspection, to actually contain prohibited ornamental fish, such as fresh water stingrays, catfish, janitor fish and garfish.

The undeclared piranhas were among them.

Uy actually went to the Naia warehouse and admitted that his order of three piranhas were included in the Peru shipment, Santamaria said.

Of unknown value

"But he was told that our inventory showed there were 34 piranhas, along with other prohibited ornamental fishes," Santamaria said.

Uy then left and did not return, he said.

Santamaria was able to get a copy of Uy's membership ID from the Poker Club of the Philippines Inc.

Santamaria said it would be difficult to estimate the value of the piranhas because the fish are not sold here.

Shipment of piranha is in violation of the 1979 Fisheries Administrative Order No. 126, prohibiting the importation and/or possession of any live piranha, and of Republic Act No. 8550 (Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998).

Dead piranha as evidence

Santamaria said violators could face a penalty of either 8 years imprisonment or an P80,000 fine, or both.

Santamaria said appropriate charges would be filed against the consignee as soon as the Bureau of Customs turns over to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) the now lifeless piranha.

He said the FQS would have to preserve them as evidence.

Meanwhile, Trio is still applying Betadine on his slightly purplish, sore-looking wound.

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INQUIRER

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Malacañang plans to challenge legality of Senate grilling

From page A1

happening. We have to have a court resolution on this," Bunye said in a news briefing.

Separation of powers

In his letter appealing to the Senate to reconsider its action and release Gonzales from detention, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said:

"The rule on executive privilege is rooted in the principle of the separation of powers of the coequal branches of government. It exempts responsible officials from disclosing sensitive and delicate information. Executive privilege particularly applies to national security matters. This kind of information cannot be pried open by a coequal branch of government."

Writing in the INQUIRER yesterday, Bernas debunked Ermita's reasoning. The noted expert on constitutional law cited the US Supreme Court ruling on the release of President Richard Nixon's Oval Office tapes that led to his resignation.

"The Court concluded that executive privilege is not absolute. Mere assertion of a generalized need for confidentiality must yield to public interest. The Executive Branch must convince the court that indeed there is a genuine need for confidentiality," Bernas said.

Bernas pointed to a constitutional provision which allows department heads to appear in Congress only with the consent of the President and, if demanded, under executive session. However, he questioned whether Gonzales was eligible for this protection.

"Is Gonzales such a person (a department secretary whose appointment needs confirmation by the Commission on Appointment)? Or does he not come under the rule for witnesses appearing in legislative investigations, a rule which allows Congress to detain a recalcitrant witness? It is this rule that the Senate has relied on."

Supreme Court

The issue is likely to land in the Supreme Court since Malacañang has already declared that Gonzales is not in a position to leave the hospital and attend the Senate hearing.

"Our main concern is for his health to get better first before we can talk about his return to the Senate," Bunye said.

Gonzales was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City after he suffered a mild stroke during his appearance before the Senate blue ribbon committee on Wednesday.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo visited Gonzales on Friday night.

"His position is not vacant. There are still tests to be made and we have to wait for results," said Bunye when asked if Gonzales was still capable of performing his duties with his poor health.

On proposals that Ermita take Gonzales' place in the Senate inquiry, Bunye said that the executive secretary had no personal knowledge of this.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee chair, yesterday said the Senate could not afford a confrontation over the Gonzales case.

"This is the wrong issue at the wrong time and over the wrong person," Arroyo told reporters. He said that should there be an institutional confrontation, it should be over an overriding matter such as Charter change.

Arroyo rejected the request of Gonzales' lawyer, Antonio Bautista, to release his client because of his "very delicate health condition."

Senate suggests leave

"To relieve him of work or otherwise, it might be prudent for him to take a leave of absence. The President can designate meanwhile an acting national security adviser," Emilia Pueyo, director general of the Blue Ribbon Oversight Office Management, said in a letter conveying Arroyo's message to Bautista.

Bautista asked the committee to excuse Gonzales from being recalled to the hearing and to be released from it. Aside from Gonzales' health, Bautista said that as Ms Arroyo's alter ego he was "not at liberty to disclose in public matters pertaining to national security."

Arroyo said the request of Gonzales would be "incompatible" with the committee's decision to cite him in contempt and place him under detention until he gave the information requested by the committee members.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the Senate should let Gonzales go and just follow the money trail in finding the truth about the Venable contract.

"To Malacañang, this man with a bum heart is their Braveheart for sticking to the pledge of omerta," Recto said. "The tack is for them to find other ways of finding the truth and not to depend on a man whose lips are sealed." *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Leila B. Salaverria and Philip C. Tubeza*

SUPPORTERS of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales offer red roses, the international symbol of social democracy, at the Philippine Heart Center where Gonzales has been scheduled for heart surgery. LYN RILLON

Suspected kidnap gang leader nabbed in Antipolo

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The alleged leader of the notorious Waray Waray kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) group believed to be behind the abduction and murder of Chinese-Filipino executive Betty Chua Sy was arrested in Antipolo City early Friday morning.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon(Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) police director, identified the suspect as Rene Superable, alias Lupin, a native of Jaro, Leyte. He was arrested by intelligence operatives of the Calabarzon police.

Verzosa said Superable was on the list of most wanted kidnappers of the National Kidnapping Task Force. A P1 million reward was offered for his capture.

Superable was arrested on the basis of an arrest warrant for kidnapping issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Vivencio Baclig, Verzosa said.

Elements of the Regional Intelligence Office raided the alleged safe house of Superable's group in Barangay Dela Paz at around 1 a.m..

"The arrest is the result of a month-long intelligence operation against members of the Waray Waray group who are actively engaged in kidnapping and robbery cases in Metro Manila and the Calabarzon areas," Verzosa said.

Superable reportedly admitted during interrogation that he was part of the group that abducted Sy in Novaliches, Quezon City last year.

The victim died in the group's hideout in Trece Martires City after she was shot several times when her relatives refused to pay the ransom.

Sy's body was then put in a garbage bag and dumped on a national road in Bacoor, Cavite.

Verzosa said Superable and other gang members were also suspects in the abduction of businesswoman Caridad Chua who was taken by armed men from her orchid plantation in Imus, Cavite two months ago.

The police official added that the suspect also admitted to the kidnapping and subsequent killing of a certain Picones, owner of Dine-N-Saur restaurant in Angono, Rizal, and the abduction of Korean national Peter Woo in Caloocan.

The Waray Waray group was also responsible for the kidnapping of two wealthy Filipino-Chinese businessmen in Fairview, Quezon City, and Buendia, Pasay City last year, Versoza said.

The group is also known to "manage" an organized robbery syndicate suspected to be involved in the series of robberies in Rizal, Cavite and Quezon.

"The group has also organized cell phone snatchers in Quezon City and Caloocan," Verzosa added.

He expressed optimism that Superable's arrest would lead to the dismantling of one of the largest KFR syndicates in the country. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

METROBRIEFS

Marikina teens' center

HINDI NA AKO NAGIISA!

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

BEGINNING next month, Marikina City teenagers will have somewhere to run to should they be confronted by issues like sexual harassment, drug addiction or teenage pregnancy. The local government is setting up a health and counseling center exclusively for teenagers and young adults, health officer Alberto Herrera told the INQUIRER. The center, which will be called "Teens HealthQuarter," is a franchise from the non-government organization Foundation For Adolescent Development. The center will not only be available for those seeking guidance about premarital sex, relationships, sexual identity or peer pressure but will also offer free medical and dental services to the youth. The center, a joint project of the Health Department and the City Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, will accommodate residents aged 15-24. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

EC photo tilt deadline

THE DEADLINE for submission of entries to the photo contest "Pagtutulungan: Enhancing EC-RP Development and Economic Cooperation" for hand-delivered submissions is Sept. 30. The competition, a project of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, The Podium, Canon and the Philippine Center for Photojournalism Inc., was launched to acknowledge the role of photojournalists and photo enthusiasts in strengthening the relations of the European Commission with the Philippines. Entries must be submitted on or before 12 noon on Sept. 30, or must be postmarked on Sept. 27 to either: the EC-RP Photo Competition, the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, 30/F Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City , or the Philippine Center for Photojournalism Inc., 12-C Bayanihan, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Call center helps tutors with English language lessons

By DJ Yap

WELL-PAYING JOBS FOR THOUSANDS of graduates are not the only advantage promised by the booming call center industry.

Contact centers may yet give the right push that Philippine schools sorely need for better English language teaching.

Convergys Corp., a top customer care services firm, has in fact taken steps toward improving the teaching of English in public high schools.

Since the first quarter of 2004, the call center has trained almost 400 educators in oral communication, in partnership with the Department of Education, said Pau Villadolid, director for training, quality and instructional design.

On Saturdays and Sundays, a class of 30 public high school teachers are taught by Convergys' trainers what is supposed to be "proper spoken English" in an eight-hour session. Teachers from Luzon are trained in the company's Makati office, while those from the Visayas and Mindanao are taught in Cebu, said Villadolid. She added that the instructors agreed to do the training sessions "pro bono."

At the launch yesterday of the company's seventh contact center on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Sen. Mar Roxas, the guest of honor, admitted it was not smooth sailing when the contact center industry began recruiting employees who were proficient in English.

But the man called the "Uncle of the Call Center Industry" said this was only to be expected of a fledgling industry.

Convergys, he noted, started with 800 workers in 2003. After two years, this grew almost six-fold with more than 6,000 contact center agents, Roxas said. At present, almost 100,000 out of five million available jobs are held by Filipinos, showing the industry's potential to keep growing, he said.

The interesting part, he added, was how the academe and the government responded to meet the needs of the industry, noting how some schools adapted their curricula to contact center training.

Marife Zamora, vice president and country manager for Convergys Customer Management Group in the Philippines, said the role of the private sector in keeping the industry dynamic was very important.

Support from the local government was also necessary, she said, citing Quezon City's business-friendly attitude. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. promised "101 percent support" for the contact center, adding that almost 70 percent of Convergys' employees at the new center were Quezon City residents.

Zamora said the company chose the relatively light commercial district along Commonwealth Avenue, away from busy business districts, to "bring the work closer to its employees."

The new center can accommodate up to 1,500 agents, and is equipped with 600 production stations with the latest communication technologies.

Detainees' group hails 13 human rights defenders

DIOKNO

By DJ Yap

IF HE WERE ALIVE TODAY, THE LATE nationalist and statesman Jose "Ka Pepe" Diokno would be a very busy man.

"He would be running around the country. He would be gathering people together. He would be the first to speak out against the possibility of another regime under martial law," said his daughter Maria Soccorro Diokno.

The former senator would not have waited for the government to stifle dissent with an iron fist, his widow Carmen Icasiano said, after accepting the Gawad Karangalan sa Tagapagtanggol ng Karapatang Pilipino in Diokno's behalf the other day in Quezon City.

But the man who staunchly opposed martial law and just as passionately defended its victims has lain in peace for 18 years. It is up to those alive today to carry on the struggle against human rights abuses, Maria Soccorro said.

"At no point in our history has the defense of human rights been more important than today," she added.

Along with 13 other human rights defenders including another former senator, Wigberto Tañada, Diokno was honored posthumously by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines for his work defending human rights victims.

Maria Soccorro said Malacañang's recent pronouncements about a more aggressive policy toward political dissenters, and hints about emergency powers for the President, seen as a precursor of martial law, were a cause for alarm.

"Haven't we learned our lesson?" she said.

The other awardees were: Vicente Balbuena, Virginia Barimbao-Arnejo, Sr. Mariani Dimaranan, Bishop Julio Labayen Sr., Violeta Marcos, Purificacion Oracion-Viernes, Adona Orquillas, Arbet Sta Ana-Yongco, Prof. Enrique Torres, Romualda Dela Torre, Cecilia Lagman, and Irinea Tayag.

Carjackers still on the loose

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN TWO WEEKS SINCE this corner came out with a report on rampant carjackings in Quezon City.

One would expect that there would be arrests made and, on a bigger scale, some of the perpetrators would be caught in police operations.

Camp Crame, general headquarters of the Philippine National Police, has come up with a press release that preemptive strikes would be made against carjacking gangs.

That was another way of saying that the police have not yet arrested the people who have victimized a priest, some businessmen, a money changer, a couple with a daughter (whose father was roughed up in front of mother and daughter), and another couple.

There were more incidents not reported to the police. Like the son of a police official who was driving home after attending a party and who was flagged down by a group of men wielding M-16 Armalites. The boy thought he was stopped for a traffic violation and told the armed men he was the son of a policeman.

The armed men let him go. The suspects and the van they used fit the description given by victims in previous incidents who were not as lucky as the cop's son.

The carjackers—who forcibly snatch a car from its driver as opposed to car thieves who steal a car while parked without its driver—who flagged down the cop's son were policemen too, or former cops.

That's the reason the Quezon City police and the TMG's "Task Force Limbas" are having a hard time going after the carjackers in Quezon City and other parts of Metro Manila.

The TMG's ranks are not spotlessly clean when it comes to being involved in car theft or carjacking.

In the late 1980s, I exposed the unholy alliance between the TMG, then called the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG), and some car theft and carjacking syndicates.

The CHPG chief at the time was stung by my exposé and ordered his best men to do me in, or in police parlance, become a "salvage" victim. The CHPG men who were sent to get me didn't succeed only because one of them, who was my friend and mole, told me about the plot.

I'm not implying that the present TMG leadership is playing footsies with car thieves and carjackers, but the top CHPG leadership then could have been involved in monkey business. Otherwise, why would they try to kill the messenger of bad news?

A cloud of doubt as to the efficiency of both the TMG's Task Force Limbas and the Quezon City Police District will continue to hang over their heads as long as they don't get the carjackers who have victimized many motorists.

* * *

If there are "hoodlums in uniform" in the ranks of the PNP, they are very few compared to the honest ones.

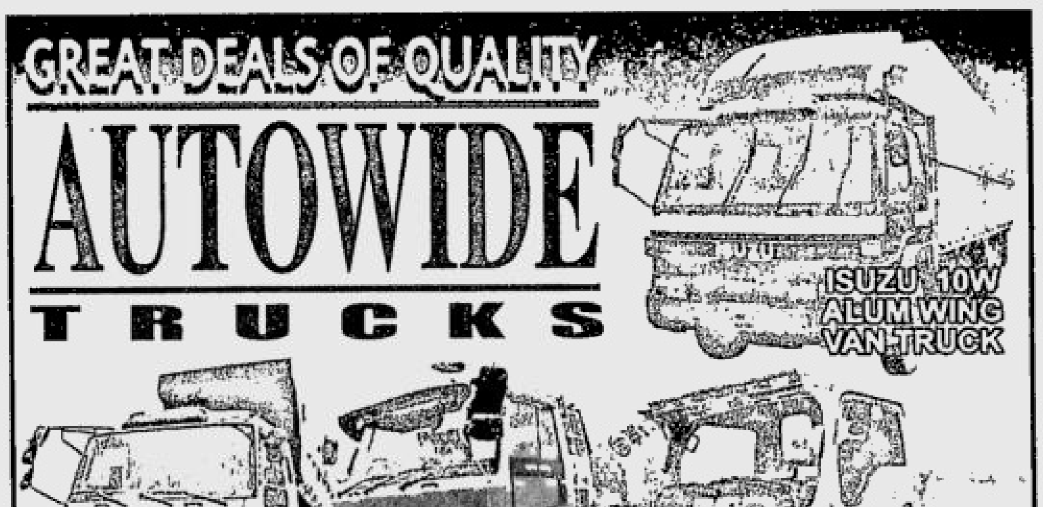
Examples of honest PNP members are those at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 2 domestic section.

A Japanese national in a hurry to catch a Philippine Airlines provincial flight left his jacket containing an equivalent of P500,000 in Japanese currency.

The cops manning the X-ray machine took pains to identify the owner of the jacket and handed the money just as he was boarding the plane.

Another passenger left a wallet containing P50,000 at the final check-in counter also got the wallet back.

To the honest PNP members at the Naia 2 domestic flight area: Mabuhay, and may your honesty be a shining example to others.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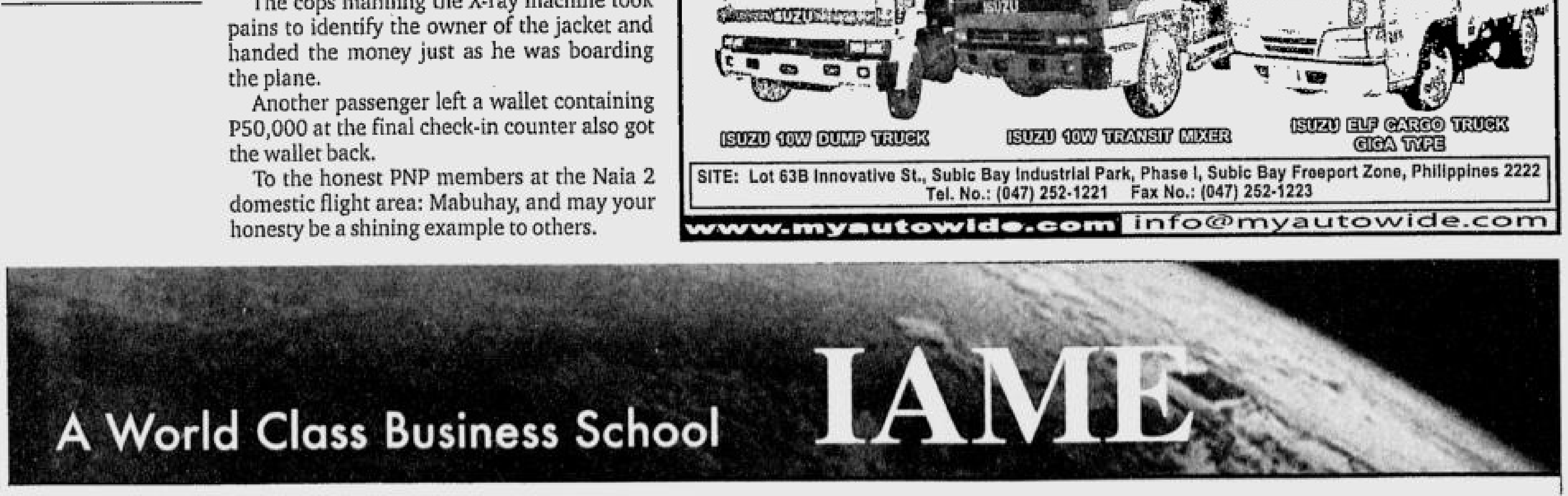
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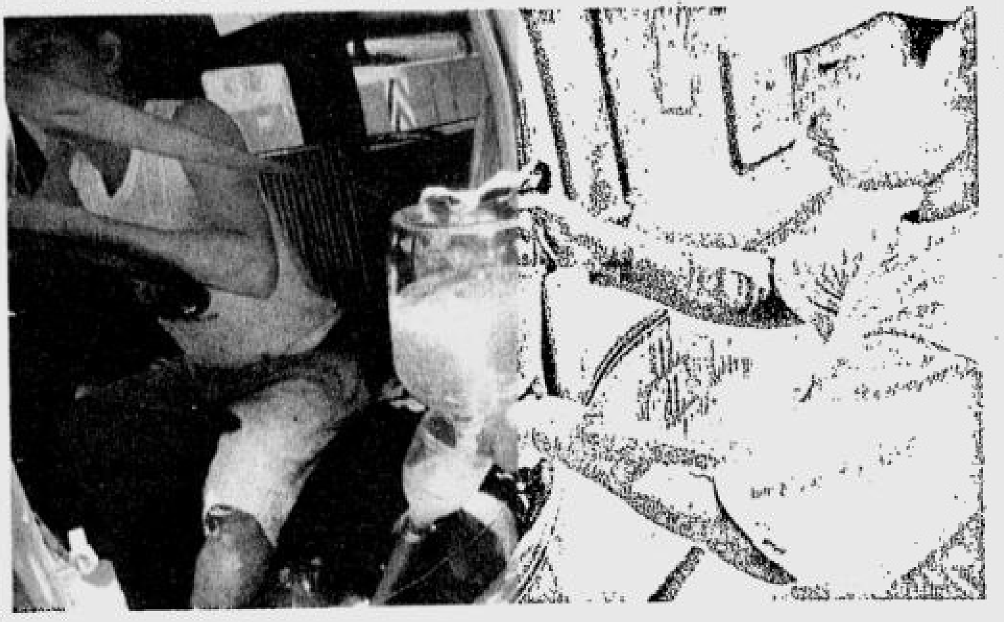

BRISK BUSINESS
Jeepney drivers in Sta. Mesa, Manila, buy their diesel fuel, reportedly obtained illegally, from enterprising vendors who sell the expensive commodity at a lower price. ERIK ARAZAS

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Metro buses get tags for OBR plan

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) is rushing the distribution of tags for Metro buses for the organized dispatch system.

It aims to complete the job by the end of the month.

The MMDA started tagging buses for the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme at the southern terminals in Baclaran and Alabang, said Mon Santiago, head of the agency's Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System (MRRES).

Authorized terminals

Santiago oversees the OBR tag distribution in terminals set up by the MMDA.

Early this month, the MMDA began issuing OBR tags to buses plying the Edsa route.

The tags would be required of buses participating in the organized dispatch scheme.

The activity also allowed the agency to crack down on colorum or illegal buses.

"We have informed bus companies about the schedule. Buses must go to the terminals where the tags would be distributed," said Santiago.

Controlled dispatch

A scheme envisioned to save bus operators and owners money, the OBR would place Metro buses under controlled dispatch, based on the volume of commuters on loading points along a route.

Covering more than 3,000 buses plying 25 routes in northern and southern Metro Manila, the scheme was expected to maximize passenger loading for buses.

End points

The agency established terminals in route endpoints—Fairview, Navotas, Baclaran, FTI (Food Terminal Inc.), and Alabang—as well as eight more control points near final bus stops.

Buses with proper tags shall be issued queue cards showing when they can roll out of the terminal.

Dispatching the buses, said Santiago, would be on a "first on, first off" basis.

But implementation of the OBR would have to wait until some 2,300 more buses have been tagged.

Santiago said that so far, the MMDA had distributed only 700 tags, less than a fourth of buses registered at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

The agency has tagged 500 buses in the Navotas terminal plying northbound routes and 200 more in Fairview.

Non-transferrable

The tamper-proof and non-transferrable tags must be displayed on the windshield of buses at all times.

Santiago said the tagging procedure would not take more than five minutes.

"It's not really going to take up too much of the drivers' time," he added. "We won't distribute the tags in private terminals, only in stations established by the MMDA," Santiago said.

Warning

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, meanwhile, warned that people presenting fake documents to get the tags could face charges of falsifying public documents.

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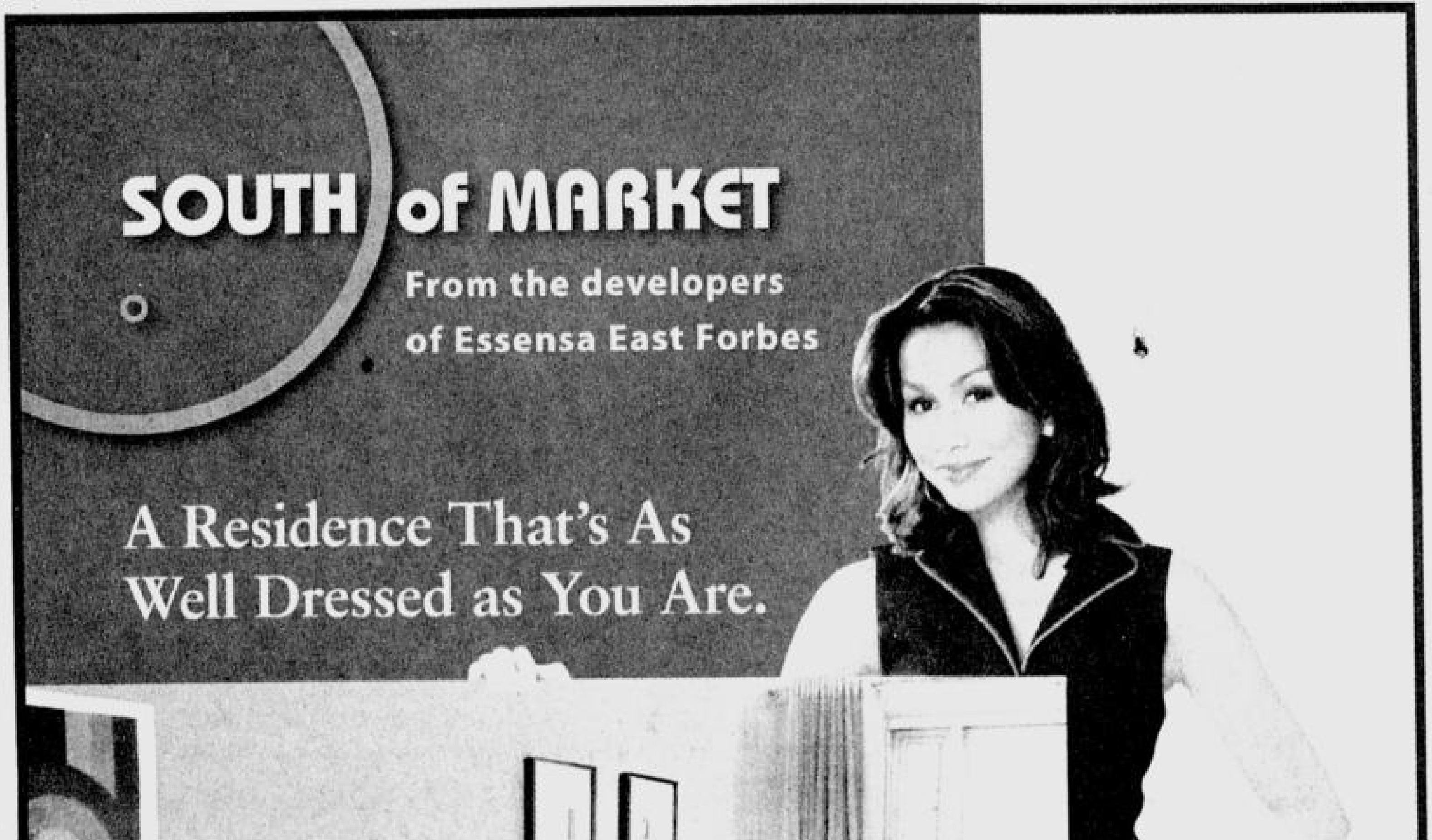

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CENTURY COMMUNITIES

Suspect in ABS-CBN case to be released

By Tina Santos

A MANILA JUDGE ORDERED yesterday the release of a suspect in the burning of an ABS-CBN television van in Mandaluyong City in January.

Citing lack of a legal basis, Judge Silvino Pampilo of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 25 granted Jongkol Francisco's petition for a writ of habeas corpus and ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to release him.

Francisco, 21, along with Teodoro Fuentes, 20, both confessed members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army—Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), had been detained at the NBI since March for their alleged involvement in the van burning.

About six armed men set fire to ABS-CBN's OB (outside broadcast) van at a gas station on Shaw Boulevard, Barangay Wack Wack, Muntinlupa City.

Francisco was arrested and detained by the NBI on the strength of a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Inocencio Sagun Jr., acting presiding judge of the Municipal Trial Court of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, reportedly for attempted homicide. But the case was dismissed in May.

Pampilo said that despite the case dismissal, Francisco was detained "with no formal complaint or accusation for any specific offense filed against him in court nor any judicial writ or order for his commitment has been issued."

The judge said the Department of Justice had yet to issue a resolution on the arson complaint of ABS-CBN used to justify Francisco's continued detention.

The order said "the continued detention of petitioner is patently illegal."

Lawyer Catherine Lee, counsel for ABS-CBN, opposed the release citing the suspect's lack of a permanent address.

An NBI official, who refused to be identified, said they did not know Francisco's case in Nueva Ecija had been dismissed.

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL – Chiefs vs Broncos; 9 a.m. (r-8:30 p.m.); ESPN – Kansas City collides with Denver in the AFC.

EXTREME SPORTS: US X-Games; 4:30 p.m.; ABC 5 – Check out the best of extreme sports.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 Brazilian Grand Prix Race Day; 8:30 p.m. (r); STAR Sports.

No surgery for injured Filipino fighter

By Recah Trinidad

TOKYO—NATIONAL SPORTS HERO MANNY PACQUIAO felt greatly relieved and led a thank-you prayer upon learning yesterday that the Filipino boxer, who was taken to the hospital in an ambulance after losing a savage one-sided match in Yokohama Sunday night, did not suffer a brain clot and was not operated on, contrary to initial reports.

Super bantamweight Ayon Naranjo was still under observation in the ICU section when the Pacquiao-led RP group that backed the failed world title bid of Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon left for home yesterday morning.

Naranjo, 23, single, a native of Bukidnon, complained of severe headache and started throwing up while watching the Gejon fight at ringside an hour after being beaten badly by Dominican Republic featherweight star Jorge Linares (17-0) in the undercard of the double main event at the Yokohama Arena.

Gina Matsuoka, who volunteered to stay by Naranjo's side in the ambulance that rushed the stricken fighter to the hospital, assured her countrymen who waited for the medical bulletin at the lobby of the Grand Palace Hotel until the early hours of Monday that Ayon was not operated on and was being treated for brain swelling.

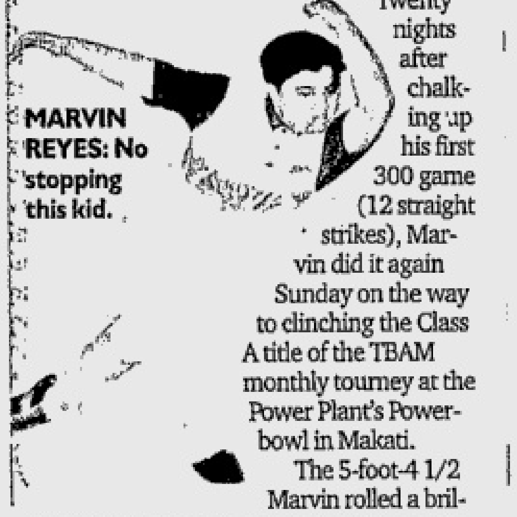
"*Salamat sa Diyos, mabuti hindi pala ganuon ka-*

NO SURGERY/ A22

Marvin rolls perfect game a 2nd time

By Roy Luarca

A PERFECT GAME RARELY COMES EVEN for longtime bowlers. Not so for 12-year-old Mar Vincent "Marvin" Elizes Reyes.



MARVIN REYES: No stopping this kid.

Twenty nights after chalking up his first 300 game (12 straight strikes), Marvin did it again Sunday on the way to clinching the Class A title of the TBAM monthly tourney at the Power Plant's Powerbowl in Makati.

The 5-foot-4 1/2 Marvin rolled a brilliant six-game series of 1375 for an average of 226, blowing away the opposition that belongs to the generation of his dad, Vincent.

"*Kinakabahan po ako, pero nag*-concentrate *ako* (I felt nervous, but I stayed focused)," said Marvin, a sixth-grader at Montessori de Manila in Las Piñas. "The pressure was greater the first time I achieved it."

Marvin, a lefty, again used the 15-lb Roto-Grip Major Assault Ball that made him the youngest perfect gamer in local tenpin annals to clinch the title.

And again, the whole Reyes family, including mother Mari and siblings Marjo and 6-year-old Marty, was there to cheer for Marvin.

A member of the national developmental pool, Marvin has gained great strides after completing a three-month training session under national coach Purvis Granger.

Gejon-Niida rematch likely, says manager

JAPAN'S Yutaka Niida (left) lands a punch to Eriberto Gejon's tummy. REUTERS

By Recah Trinidad

THE MANAGER OF ERIBERTO "YUKKA" GEJON, WHO lost by a controversial split decision in his bid for the world minimumweight boxing crown in Yokohama Sunday night, said he was optimistic of securing a rematch for his fighter against Japan's Yutaka Niida.

Rex "Wakee" Salud said he has been instructed by the chief representative of the World Boxing Association, Gilberto Mendoza Jr., to write their head office.

Salud, claiming his boxer was well ahead on points when he suffered an ugly eyebrow cut that forced the bout to be stopped midway in the 10th round, said Mendoza appeared convinced Gejon had been a victim of injustice.

The young Mendoza reports to his father, WBA president Gilberto Mendoza.

Salud yesterday returned from the failed campaign with Manny Pacquiao, who himself swore Gejon should have been declared winner by unanimous decision.

Gejon, who started out sharp and dominated the first six rounds before being bullied and repeatedly gored by the desperate Japanese champ, was picked the winner by judge Medardo Villalobos of Panama, 97-93.

However, the two other judges—Phinit Prayabsaab of Thailand and Wan Soo Yuh of South Korea—picked Niida by identical scores of 96-95.

Normally, there should have been at least a point deduction in favor of Gejon, but Noli Flores, Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief, said the WBA had waived the penalty for accidental headbutts in its last convention in Bali, Indonesia.

However, Gejon's wounds over his eyes showed he had been fouled not only once, but a total of three times.

His three wounds, all caused by headbutts, took 12 stitches to close.

Gejon swore all three cuts were caused by intentional fouls, but that the referee, Luis Pabon of Puerto Rico, just looked the other way.

Pabon finally made a move and stepped in after Niida's nastiest head nudge opened an ugly cut over Gejon's right eyebrow before the ring doctor ordered a stop to the bout.

Gejon, who boxed and moved better than his foe, was declared loser through a technicality.

There was no big celebration from the hometown fans, many of whom cheered the bloodied but unbowed Gejon on his way back to his dressing room.

1 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

Football ushers in SEAG action

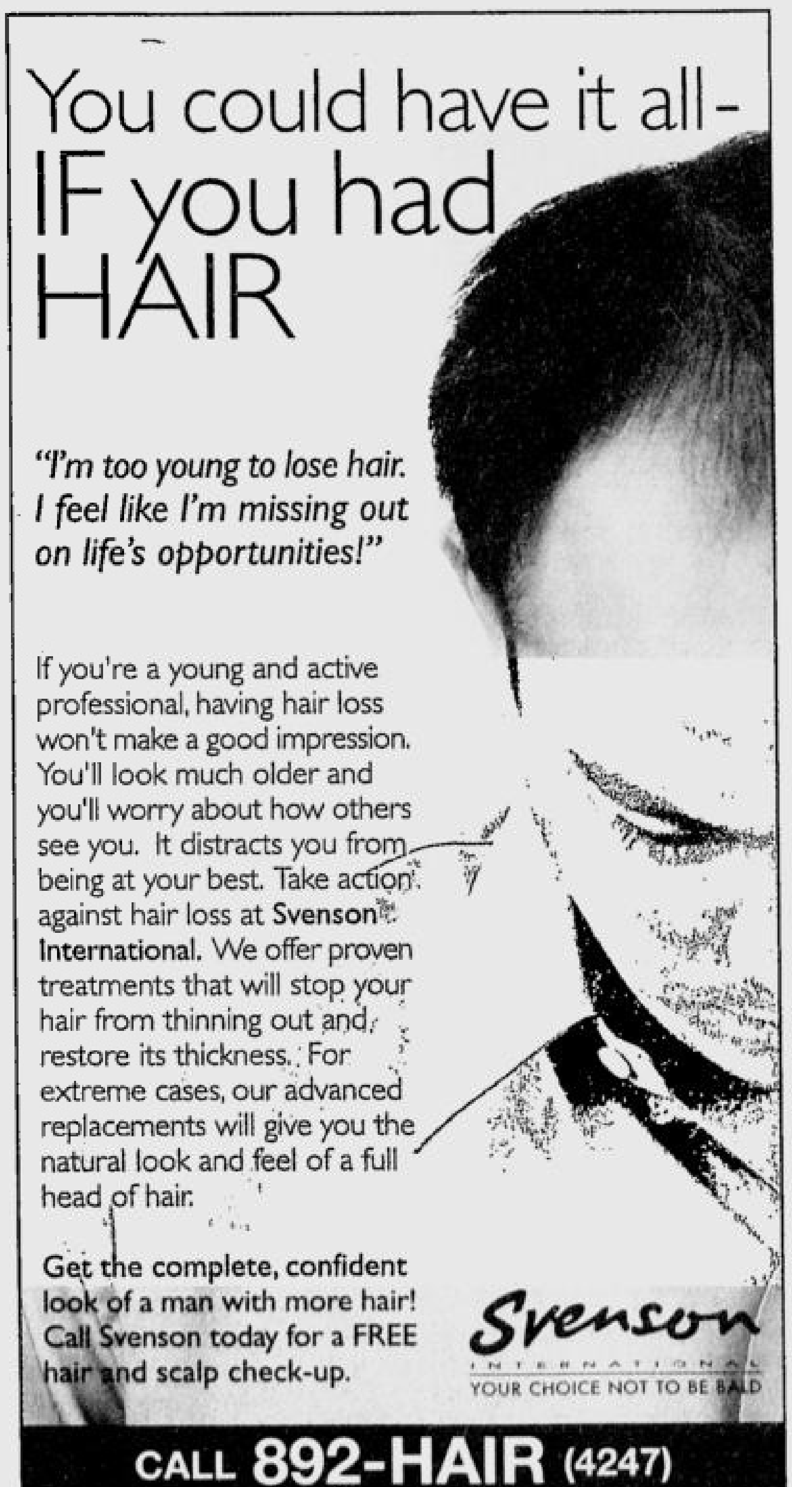
BACOLOD CITY—THE 23rd Southeast Asian Games will be coming to this City of Smiles even before the opening on Nov. 27 with the men's football tournament to be played six days earlier. While preparations are also in full swing for the staging of weightlifting, volleyball and boxing here, work on the venue for beach volleyball has yet to start. The University of St. La Salle has been chosen as the venue.

* * *

PART of the things Bacolod has undertaken in anticipation of a big crowd coming for the Games is to give seminars and clinics to those engaged in the rent-a-car/van business. A seminar where drivers here were given tips on proper decorum, etc., was given recently in a project spearheaded by the Department of Transportation and the city government.

Musong R. Castillo

Alonso youngest F1 champ at 24 A22



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RP Amateur under way; Pagunsan favored anew

By Musong R. Castillo

PAGUNSAN

BACOLOD CITY—ONE LOOK AT JUVIC PAGUNSAN'S glittering list of accomplishments and it's not hard to notice that the one thing terribly missing is a victory in his own national championship.

A few months away from turning pro, the country's foremost amateur starts his final hunt for the title that has eluded him all these years when he tees up today against the Philippines' finest as well as a sprinkling of international bets in the 44th staging of the Philippine Amateur golf championship.

This tournament has not been kind to the 27-year-old native of Negros Occidental, and last year's experience at Villamor underscored his frustrations when he failed to make it past the 36-hole qualifying with two rounds in the high 80s.

"I've not had much luck here," Pagunsan, twice the low amateur in the Philippine Open, said in Filipino yesterday before the Celebrity Am that ushered in the tournament at the tough and unpredictable Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club here.

"It seems that my game falls apart every time this comes around. I hope to change all of that this year."

Pagunsan's best finish in the event in seven years was second to Angelo Que at Alabang four years ago.

Among those fancied to again foil Juvic are defending champion Jun Bernis, former caddies' champion Jay Bayron, former Singapore Am winner Michael Bibat, national pool members Marvin Dumandan and JR Tanpinco and former winner Artemio Murakami.

PAL Interclub standouts and the members of the National Caddies Open program are also entered.

The biggest threats to Pagunsan, however, are Murakami and Tanpinco. Murakami, the 1999 champion at 15, will be coming off a sterling performance for the Philippines in the Nomura Cup in Japan, while Tanpinco knows the par-70 layout like the back of his hand.

Bernis won two major events last year but he has showed only traces of the form that allowed him to beat Murakami in an enthralling 36-hole final last year.

Members of the Malaysian national team are also in the men's field and this provides for an interesting sidelight to the tournament that will hold a ladies' division for the first time since the National Golf Association of the Philippines first held the event in 1961.

Meanwhile, Korean Jae Yang and Hari Yang won the Celebrity Am event by shooting a combined 74 points under the modified Stableford scoring, beating the Pagunsan-Rico Cajili tandem by two.

The tournament, held with the backing of ICTSI, Hanjin Group, Aboitiz, Petron Blaze, San Miguel Corp., Pagcor, Department of Tourism, C2 and PAL, will have both fields playing a 36-hole classification before the match play stage starts on Thursday.

Archers hungry as ever for a UAAP cage crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LA SALLE ARCHERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY SHOWCASED THEIR BRILliance, but perhaps none will seem more important to them than their three-game sweep of the Ateneo Eagles this season.

So what made the defending champions hard to read when ranged against their UAAP basketball archrivals?

"It was an advantage to be under Norman (Black) for so many years as a player and as coach," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren of his former San Miguel Beer mentor in the PBA. "More or less, I know how he thinks, so we come prepared on game day. We scouted them pretty well."

The Eagles, who have convincingly beaten all the other teams in the league, lost by an average margin of 17.3 points to the Archers.

Last Sunday, the bitter adversaries battled for the last time in the Final Four. The Archers posted a 74-57 blowout win to again arrange a title showdown with the top-ranked Far Eastern U Tamaraws.

Pumaren, though, gave credit to his steadfast crew, led by fifth-year guard Joseph Yeo and forward Jun Cabatu.

"You can just imagine the way I push my players during practices and the way I lash at them during halftime," he said. "I don't think we'd be here without all the hard work during our practices."

Team manager Terry Capistrano said the Archers' competitive fire goes up several notches when facing the Eagles.

"I think every time we play against Ateneo, unfortunately for them, our players seem to be having a good day," said Capistrano.

"We were so close to the Finals and the players didn't want another (semifinal) game," added Capistrano after the Archers booked their 11th Finals appearance in 12 years. "They just wanted to get it over with. But I really think that Ateneo had great potential this season."

Black offered no excuses. "It just so happened that they're the better team this year," he said after Ateneo bowed out of the Final Four against La Salle for the second straight season.

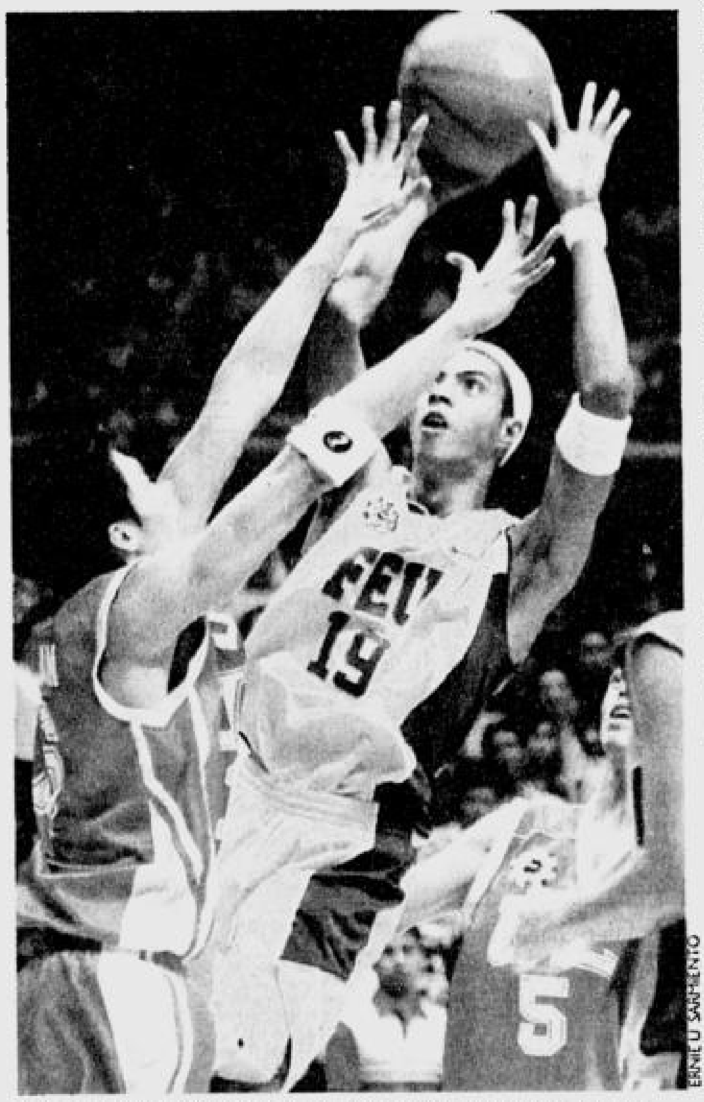
Yet the multititled former PBA coach stressed that it was still a good run for the Eagles.

"I think we achieved a lot this year," said Black, citing their 10-4 elimination record. "At the start of the season, the goal was to make it in the Final Four, and we accomplished that."

But for the Archers, of course, the mission isn't over yet.

"We're the underdogs (against FEU) even though we're the defending champs," said Pumaren. "We have to dig deep. It's a good thing my players have a big appetite. They're never satisfied."

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Women's Finals)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Juniors Semis)
3:30 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Seniors Finals)


ERNIE U SARMIENTO

FAR Eastern U's Arwind Santos drives off UE's Luis Palaganas during their semifinal game Sunday. The Tamaraws blasted the Warriors, 78-57, to forge a title clash with the La Salle Archers.

Americans regain Presidents Cup

GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA—CHRIS DiMarco sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole Sunday to give the United States an 18 1/2-15 1/2 victory over the Internationals in a Presidents Cup thriller.

DiMarco defeated Stuart Appleby, 1-up, to clinch an outright US triumph, snapping a five-year skid for US PGA talent that included losing the past two Ryder Cups and playing to a 17-17 Presidents Cup draw in 2003 in South Africa.

US captain Jack Nicklaus won his first Presidents Cup after a prior loss and draw.

The US squad included nine of the 12 Americans who suffered the worst US loss in Ryder Cup history last year to Europe.

US captain's pick Fred Couples made a 20-foot birdie putt at the 18th hole to beat world No. 2 Vijay Singh, 1-up. Couples had asked to face Singh in the singles showdown.

Davis Love clinched no worse than a share of the trophy for the US by downing Nick O'Hern, 4 and 3.

Third-ranked Phil Mickelson, still winless in Cup singles, ended all square with Argentina's Angel Cabrera after mistakenly thinking he had won the trophy for the US team.

Fifth-ranked Retief Goosen won the last two holes to beat world No. 1 Woods, 2 and 1.

Jim Furyk stayed unbeaten this week and in eight Ryder and Presidents Cup singles matches, beating Australian Adam Scott 3 and 2. *AFP*

Greece clinches Euro title

BELGRADE, SERBIA-MONTENEGRO—Greece won the European Championship basketball title for the second time Sunday when it beat Germany, 78-62, behind 22 points by Theodoros Papaloukas.

The Greek defense frustrated Dirk Nowitzki, the tournament's MVP and top scorer, who scored 23 points but went only 1-for-8 from the 3-point range. He had nine rebounds but also four turnovers.

Greece won its first title at home in 1987.

Earlier, Tony Parker scored 25 points to lift France to a 98-68 victory over Spain in the bronze-medal game, giving France its first medal at the European Championship since a silver in 1959. *AP*

PBL rookie draft moved to Oct. 5

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL League (PBL) announced yesterday that the Rookie Draft for the kick-off tournament of the 24th season will be moved to Oct. 5 to allow players from the collegiate leagues enough time to prepare.

Commissioner Chino Trinidad said they have received numerous calls from interested players requesting more time to join the draft, which was earlier set this Friday.

For inquiries, call Lanie Sagayap at 667-3008 to 09.

Fantastic Franz

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

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T as in Turnover?

Bull's-eye.

Turnovers pretty much defined Ateneo's performance in the 68th season of the UAAP. Especially each time it played its archrival De La Salle.

Like on Sunday, Sept. 25, when Ateneo had 21 turnovers and lost to De La Salle. Score: 74-57.

Just right because if Ateneo won with 21 turnovers, De La Salle should have committed 42 turnovers itself.

But no. De La Salle had only half of Ateneo's turnovers on Sunday—was it 10 or 12?—and that also pretty much defined the Green Archers' season when ranged against the Blue Eagles: Murderous.

Listen up, fellas. The Archers had been unwavering in all the three games they faced the Eagles so that in every ending of each match, the result was the same: murder.

Three times De La Salle was Agatha Christie this year against Ateneo: "Murder De La Salle Wrote."

First meeting, De La Salle won by 18 points.

A fluke?

Think again.

Second meeting, De La Salle won by 17 points.

Convinced?

Third meeting—and that was last Sunday, Sept. 25—De La Salle won by 17 points.

Any question?

There being none, let it be known that De La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, like I said the first time he beat Norman Black and his Ateneo Eagles in their first meeting of the season, has absolutely outcoached his coach of many years at San Miguel Beer.

It's not the first time. It happened before and it's going to happen again—student finally outsmarting his teacher. Cycle of life, they call it.

Who knows, when Joseph Yeo—yeah, that sonamagun Yeo who does a yeoman's job in spectacular fashion each time De La Salle needed a big win—retires and decides to also coach, he may yet likewise turn the tables on Pumaren?

You'll never know. As the song "Que Sera Sera" goes, "The future is not ours to see."

Meanwhile, here's to Joseph Yeo again. Man, he fired 28 points on Sunday, buying baskets like they were on a garage sale in one deadly stretch in the fourth quarter that all but left Ateneo in smithereens.

But still, let it not be said though that Ateneo—at least in last Sunday's game—did not put up a fight before going down in defeat.

Until LA "The Thorn" Tenorio got the cramps in the crucial fourth, Ateneo still had a glimmer of hope. Tenorio's departure from the game sealed Ateneo's fate.

It was but a reprise of last year's sad ending for Ateneo, when Larry Fonacier, the top Eagle, got injured and that triggered the 2002 UAAP champion's fall.

When Tenorio, Ateneo's chief Eagle this year, suffered the leg cramps, that meant goodbye.

Indeed, the last two seasons had been heartbreakers for Ateneo.

Not for De La Salle.

After recapturing last year the crown won by FEU in 2003, it seems everything's coming up roses and wine again this year for Franz Pumaren and his tough boys from Taft.

Didn't I say here only a while ago of a dangerous De La Salle, when even the grumpiest of pessimists started doubting Pumaren's ability to push the Archers back to the Finals?

I can't wait to see Pumaren gun for his sixth UAAP title in eight years at De La Salle.

Winning is a habit. And don't habits die hard?

* * *

Nice to renew ties with Carlo Gamban, who powered De La Salle to the championship in his rookie year as an Archer in 1957 in the company of such legends like Kurt Bachmann.

Sunday, I bumped into Carlo, a dear friend from way back, in the 44th Philippine Amateur Golf Championship now ongoing at the Negros Occidental Golf & Country in Bacolod City and, well, what do you know. Carlo, now the well-loved mayor of Silay City, had tons of nostalgia about his playing days that could fill in a minimum of three columns here.

Of course, he also mentioned, quite happily, about his beloved Silay that would soon become the hub of Western Visayas with the completion of the first truly international airport in Negros in a couple of years or so.

Abangan!

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdstl.net

Interscholastics golf gets going

TRADITIONAL RIVALS ATENEO AND LA SALLE are in for a big fight against other schools strengthened by recent buildups in the fifth Samsung Interscholastics golf championship starting today at the executive course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Ateneo and La Salle remain the teams to beat in the three-day, three-division tourney featuring 132 junior players representing 28 schools.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, Samsung Phils. president Spencer Shim, Valley president Joe Feliciano and Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines officials Raoul Lachica, Amalia Montecillo and Gerry Handog are expected to make the ceremonial drives at 7 a.m.

No surgery . . .

From page A21

grabe (Thank God, his condition was not that grave)," Pacquiao exclaimed after having had to calm down his group who were falsely informed by a female interpreter that Ayon had undergone brain surgery.

"The doctors said he could return to Manila in three or four days if the swelling is contained and his condition normalizes," said Matsuoka, a tall, slender Filipina married to a generous Japanese trader.

She said Naranjo was conscious but doctors have ordered him to stay still in bed.

Naranjo was floored in the fifth round but managed to finish the six-round contest which he lost by unanimous decision.

Robert "Junjun" Bubuli of the Rex Wakee Salud boxing stable, who roomed with Naranjo here, said the victim had confided to him he had figured in a motorcycle crash a week before leaving for Tokyo.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Dalia 2. JJ's Friend 3. Ocean Dignity 4. Mandalay Bay
Race 2—1. Key Element 2. Seniority 3. Sweet Felicity 4. Hello Junior
Race 3—1. Kate Alessandra 2. Chabacana 3. Lady Beware 4. Guardian 5. Imperial Manila
Race 4—1. Colombia Breeze/Storm Gauge 2. Real Storm 3. Rhyme and A Prayer 4. Penny Wise
Race 5—1. Miss Vicky 2. Scarlet Beauty 3. Princess Sophia 4. Mr. Bonjing
Race 6—1. Don't Tell Me 2. Magical Surf 3. Speedster 4. Sound of the Wind
Race 7—1. Dazzling Affair 2. Sky King 3. She Jinsky 4. Jaw Breaker
Race 8—1. Tribeca 2. Tool Pusher 3. Whistle Blower 4. Secret Angel 5. Sovereign Dancer 6. Mr. Bullseye

Alonso F1 champ at 24

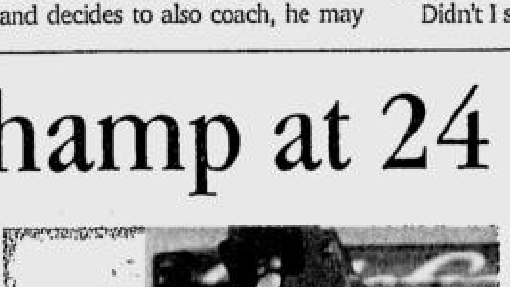
SAO PAULO—SPAIN'S FERNANDO ALONSO made Formula One history as the youngest champion at the age of 24 on Sunday after finishing third for Renault in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

McLaren's Juan Pablo Montoya won the race for the second year in a row while teammate Kimi Raikkonen, the only man who could have put off Alonso's title celebrations, finished runner-up.

Montoya would have let Raikkonen win had it helped the Finn's title chances, but Alonso needed just six points to follow Ferrari's Michael Schumacher as champion and it was clear he was going to get them.

"This is the maximum I can achieve in my life and my career," declared Alonso, who had pumped the air with both fists as he crossed the line.

Alonso now has an unassailable lead of 23 points over Raikkonen with two races remaining, making him Spain's first Formula One champion.



YOUNGEST: Renault's Fernando Alonso REUTERS

The previous youngest champ was Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi, who was 25 years and eight months when he took the crown in 1972. *Reuters*

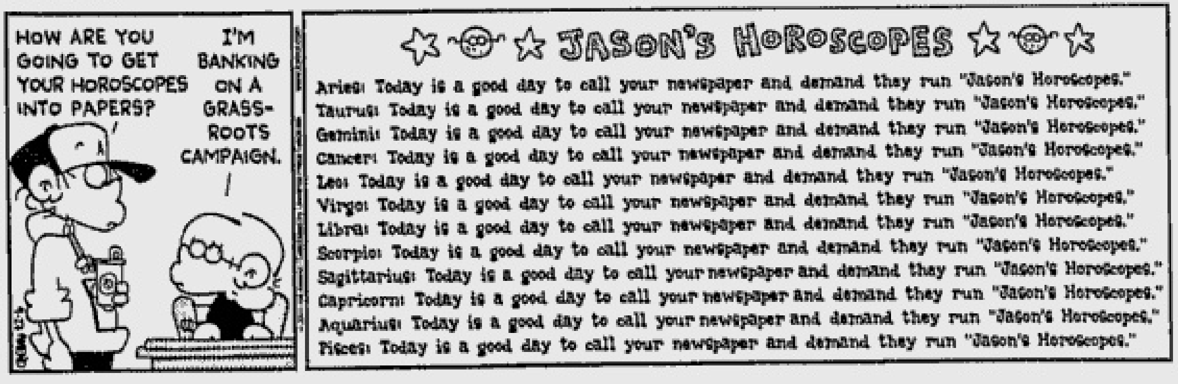
GCAP derby kicks off at San Juan Coliseum

THE THIRD leg of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag one-day derby gets underway starting at 4 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum with 80 fights on tap and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Six GCAP 5-stag derbies are scheduled this year, according to GCAP founder Patrick Antonio. The participant with the highest points total after the series wins the Stagfighter of the Year award. Pol Estrellado of Laguna (PE Farms) topped the first leg while Pete Rivera of Pampanga ruled the second leg last Sept. 21, when his San Juan Coliseum entry tallied 4.5 points. Meanwhile, the LCC Leonard 5-stag derby is also slated at SJC on Oct. 1 with Louie Cua as host. Entries must be submitted this Friday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 725-5665, 725-5369 or 727-7086.

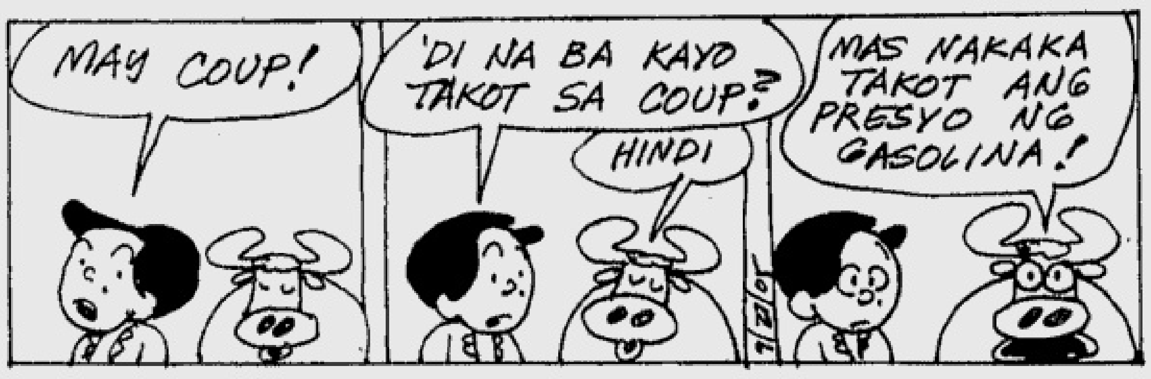
Stag festival slated at Roligon Oct. 15

A GUARANTEED prize of P1.3 million is at stake in the Stag Festival 5-stag derby slated Oct. 15, 17 and 19 at Roligon Mega Cockpit. The entry fee has been lowered to P7,700 to allow smalltime cockers and breeders to enter their new battlecrosses, according to host Rolly Ligon. "Over the years, Roligon has maintained its reputation as everybody's cockpit, where anyone seeking recognition in the national cockfighting circuit can join," he said. The fastest win champion will drive home a Izusu Big Horn 4x4. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812. Meanwhile, entries Mangzee Farm of Bobby del Rosario, Shogun of Reden Mariano and Dr. No of Dong Jose topped the recent "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby."

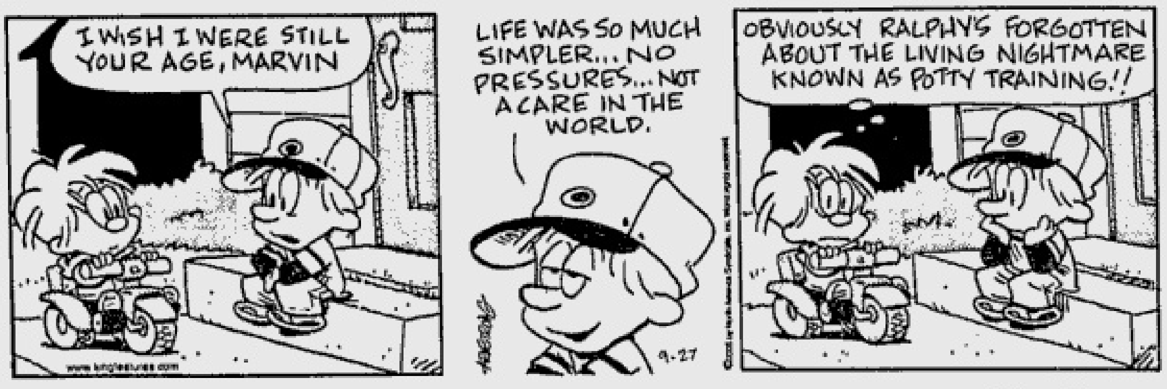
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET YOUR HOROSCOPES INTO PAPERS?
I'M BANKING ON A GRASS-ROOTS CAMPAIGN.
JASON'S HOROSCOPES
Aries: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Taurus: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Gemini: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Cancer: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Leo: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Virgo: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Libra: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Scorpio: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Sagittarius: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Capricorn: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Aquarius: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Pisces: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."

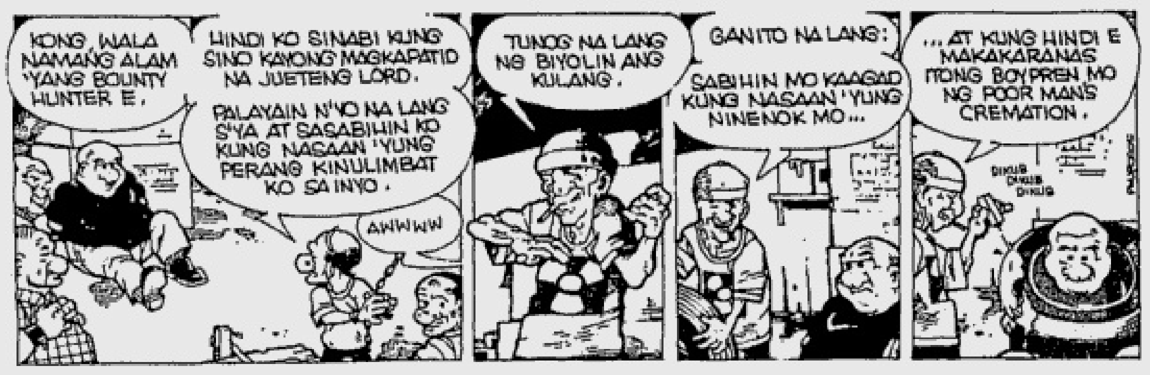
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MAY COUP!
'DI NA BA KAYO TAKOT SA COUP?
HINDI
MAS NAKAKA TAKOT ANG PRESYO NG GASOLINA!

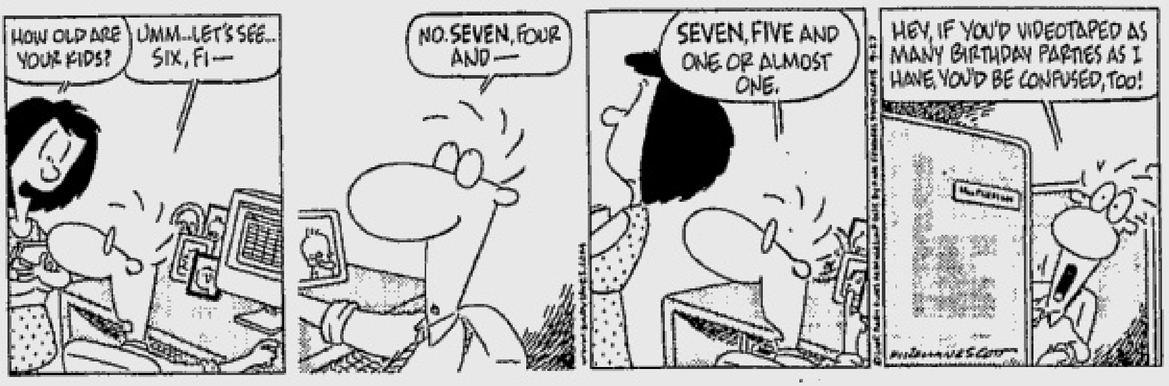
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I WISH I WERE STILL YOUR AGE, MARVIN
LIFE WAS SO MUCH SIMPLER... NO PRESSURES... NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD.
OBVIOUSLY RALPHY'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE LIVING NIGHTMARE KNOWN AS POTTY TRAINING!!
9-27
www.kingfeatures.com

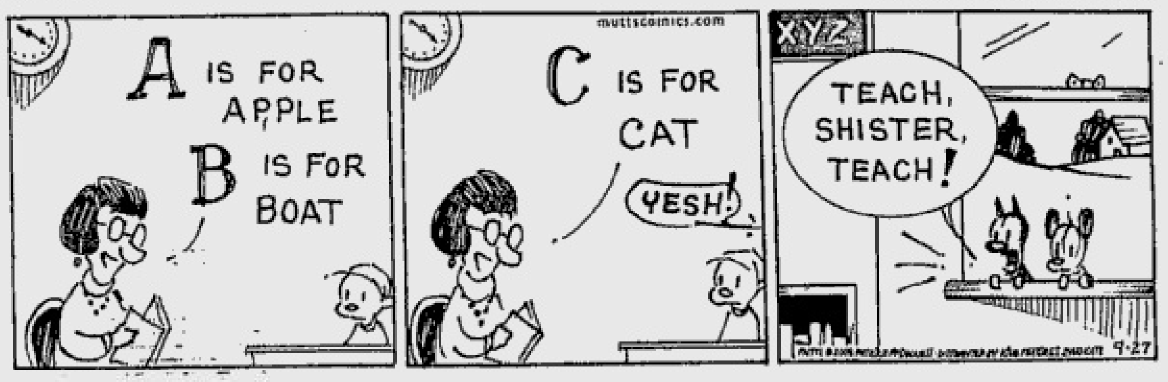
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KONG, WALA NAMANG ALAM 'YANG BOUNTY HUNTER E.
HINDI KO SINABI KUNG SINO KAYONG MAGKAPATID NA JUETENG LORD.
PALAYAIN N'YO NA LANG S'YA AT SASABIHIN KO KUNG NASAAN 'YUNG PERANG KINULIMBAT KO SA INYO.
AWWWW
TUNOG NA LANG NG BIYOLIN ANG KULANG.
GANITO NA LANG:
SABIHIN MO KAAGAD KUNG NASAAN 'YUNG NINENOK MO...
...AT KUNG HINDI E MAKAKARANAS ITONG BOYPREN MO NG POOR MAN'S CREMATION.
DIKUB DIKUB DIKUB

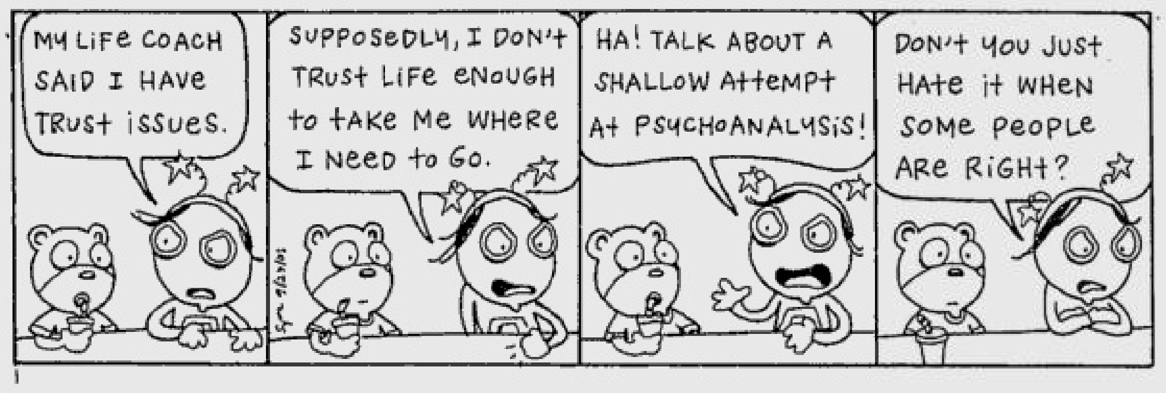
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW OLD ARE YOUR KIDS?
UMM...LET'S SEE... SIX, FI—
NO. SEVEN, FOUR AND—
SEVEN, FIVE AND ONE OR ALMOST ONE.
HEY, IF YOU'D VIDEOTAPED AS MANY BIRTHDAY PARTIES AS I HAVE, YOU'D BE CONFUSED, TOO!

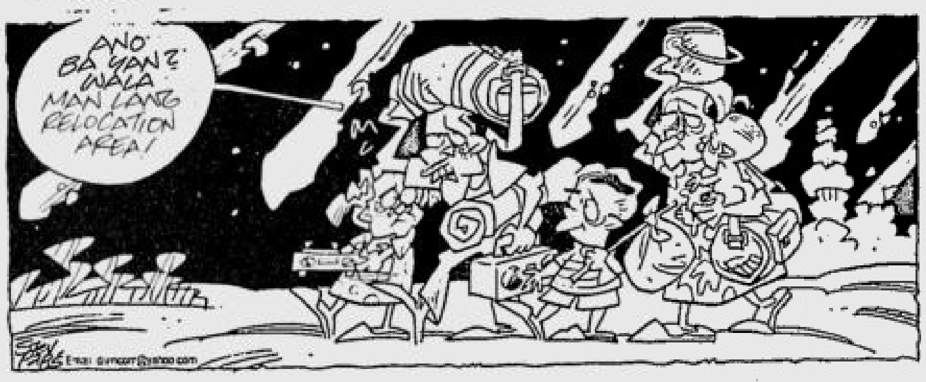
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A IS FOR APPLE
B IS FOR BOAT
muttscomics.com
C IS FOR CAT
YESH!
XYZ
TEACH, SHISTER, TEACH!
9-27

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MY LIFE COACH SAID I HAVE TRUST ISSUES.
SUPPOSEDLY, I DON'T TRUST LIFE ENOUGH TO TAKE ME WHERE I NEED TO GO.
HA! TALK ABOUT A SHALLOW ATTEMPT AT PSYCHOANALYSIS!
DON'T YOU JUST HATE IT WHEN SOME PEOPLE ARE RIGHT?

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ANO BA YAN?! WALA MAN LANG RELOCATION AREA!

SQUATTERS AND THE END OF THE WORLD

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very goal-oriented (some might say hard-driving). Your detachment and cool demeanor help you stay on course. This kind of focus brings success to you. (You know what you want, and you go for it.) The year ahead will be unusually fascinating because you're going to learn something important and valuable for your future. **Birthdate of:** Avril Lavigne, singer; A Martinez, actor; Greg Morris, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's an excellent day to work with children. But personally, it's actually a flirtatious, fun-loving day. Enjoy yourself!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Try to focus on the needs of parents and family today. This is the message of the stars. Work toward solidifying something you can count on in your home base.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's a busy day. Discussions and siblings and relatives are significant. Buying and selling, shopping, wheeling and dealing, and negotiating with others will go very well. (You're very entertaining.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Focus on money matters today. Stay on top of your bank account. Figure out how much money you don't have. It's a fine day to shop. There are lots of things you want to buy for home and family.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is in your sign today. You feel saucy, playful and excited. You like it when the energy moves in your direction. (That's because you're a natural performer and teacher.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today and tomorrow are best spent working on the sidelines. Stay behind-the-scenes if you can. Work alone if possible. You need privacy, peace and quiet, and gentle times to restore your inner harmony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A discussion with a female is significant today. Accept invitations to do so. Perhaps someone needs a sympathetic shoulder to cry on? You are that shoulder.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be careful about what you do and say today. For some reason, people notice you. You won't get away with anything! Forewarned is forearmed.

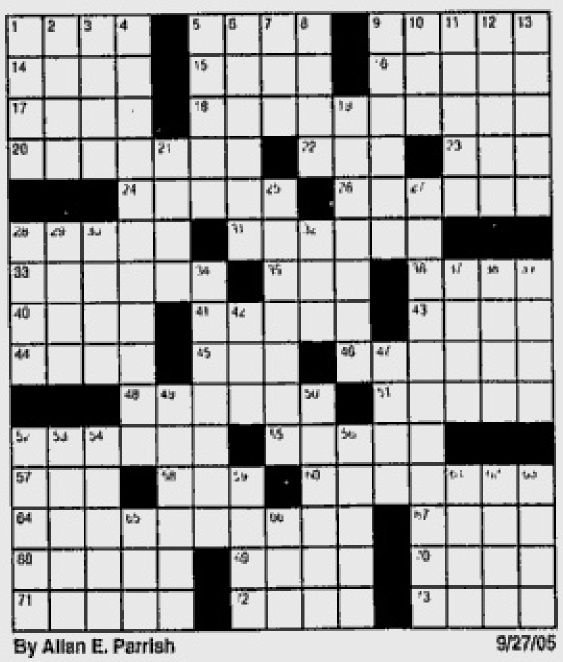
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a lovely day to expand your world in some way by exploring new horizons. Go someplace you've never been before. Learn something new.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Talk to bosses, VIPs and important people about how to best use resources that are available now. You need some support for the job you have to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today's Moon opposes your sign. This definitely focuses your attention on others, especially the opposite sex. Be sympathetic to what people have to say. Listen to them.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're in work mode today. You want to get things done, and you want them done in a way that makes you look good. (Join the club.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
9/27/05

ACROSS
1 New Age pianist John
5 Out-of-control
9 Samis
14 Concerning
15 Western defense grp.
16 Ger. warship
17 __-friendly
18 Platter player
20 Planting layer
22 Sweetie
23 Vane dir.
24 Fencing swords
26 Snake speech
28 Sky blue
31 Fleming of film fame
33 Citizen Kane's residence
35 Aliens, briefly
36 Whiskey shot
40 Oklahoma city
41 "Grand Hotel" star
43 Zest alternative
44 Dolly of "Hello, Dolly!"
45 P.E. Trudeau's party
46 Journalist Bly
48 Shifts out of place
51 African prairie
52 Singer Havens
55 Big books
57 Eggs
58 "Be prepared" grp.
60 U.S. vice president who resigned in 1832
64 Career path, for some
67 Grand Ole __
68 Fight venue
69 "The African Queen" screenwriter
70 Facilitate
71 Hose material
72 Novelist Amelia
73 Bed support

DOWN
1 Without slack
2 Sinclair's gas pump rival
3 Part of a flight or a plan
4 Wasabi
5 Actress MacDowell
6 Writer Norman
7 NFL tiebreakers
8 Gary of golf
9 Soviet leader Brezhnev
10 Fox rival?
11 Elbows
12 Bel __ cheese
13 Eye woes: var.
19 Lincoln's 1864 slate-mate
21 Columnists' pg.
25 Frozen treat
27 Two-tone footwear
28 Lipinski leap
29 Writer Grey
30 UCLA word
32 NY gambling parlor
34 Most unattractive
37 Throw, as dice
38 Gung-ho
39 Run into
42 Lend a hand
47 Daredevil Knievel
49 Tripoli native
50 Hamm's game
52 Word with candle or numeral
53 Tusk material
54 Desert critter
56 Creator
59 Part of UAE
61 October stone
62 Bear of stars
63 Vladimir's veto
65 Alphabet trio
66 Turkish honcho

Monday's Puzzle Solved

R	E	B	■	A	S	P	I	N	■	A	S	P	I	C
O	E	R	■	L	E	I	L	A	■	S	C	H	M	O
B	R	E	A	K	A	L	E	G	■	T	R	A	M	P
■	■	A	L	A	M	O	■	■	G	O	O	S	E	■
E	R	D	E	■	S	T	O	P	O	R	D	E	R	S
L	I	E	G	E	■	■	N	E	O	■	S	I	S	I
M	A	D	A	M	E	■	E	R	G	S	■	N	E	T
■	■	■	R	E	S	T	S	P	O	T	S	■	■	■
E	S	P	■	U	T	A	H	■	L	I	E	B	I	G
L	E	O	S	■	O	T	O	■	■	R	E	E	S	E
L	E	T	U	P	P	I	T	C	H	■	Y	A	R	N
■	P	A	L	E	S	■	■	R	O	B	O	T	■	■
G	A	B	L	E	■	S	T	A	Y	T	U	N	E	D
O	G	L	E	R	■	B	A	N	T	U	■	I	R	E
T	E	E	N	S	■	A	M	I	S	S	■	K	A	T

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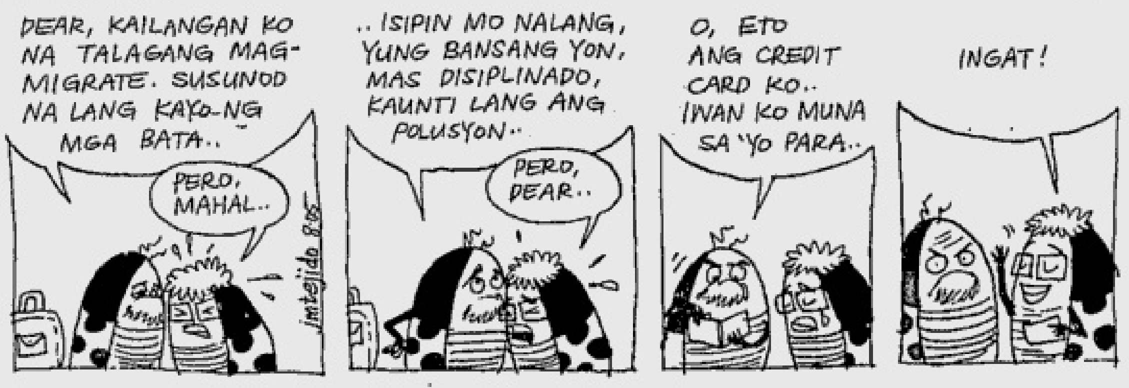
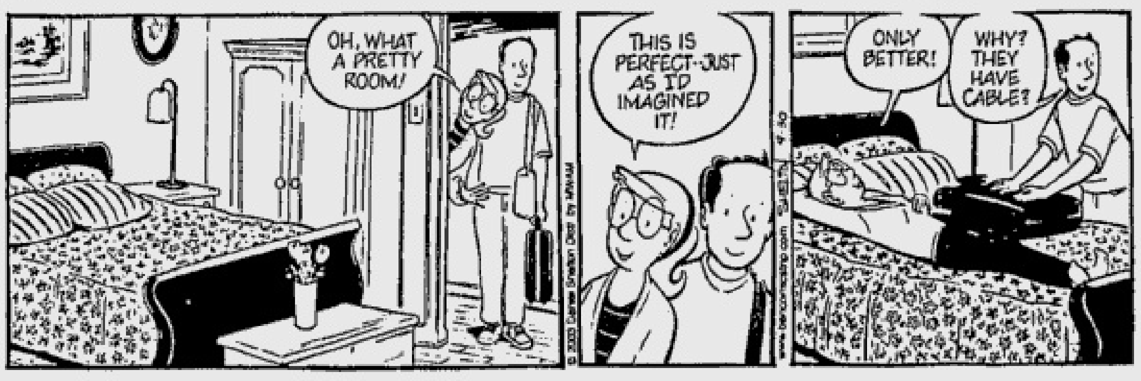
9/27/05

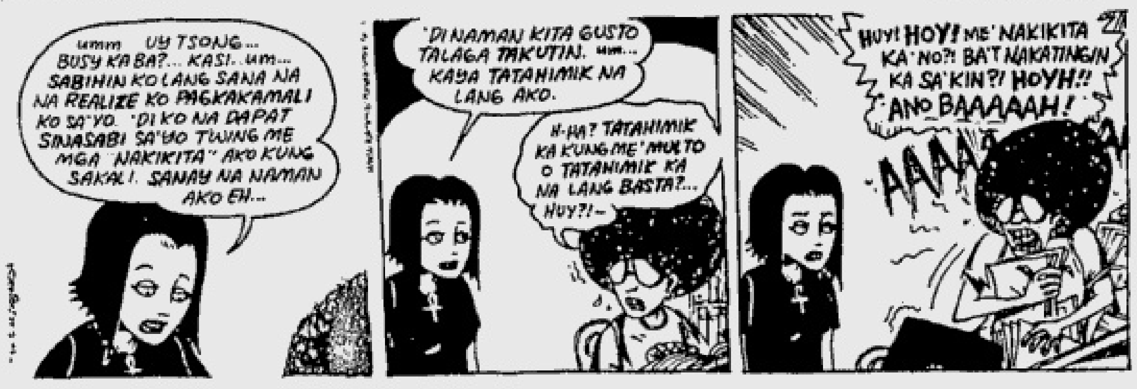
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, KAILANGAN KO NA TALAGANG MAG-MIGRATE. SUSUNOD NA LANG KAYO NG MGA BATA..
PERO, MAHAL..
..ISIPIN MO NALANG, YUNG BANSANG YON, MAS DISIPLINADO, KAUNTI LANG ANG POLUSYON..
PERO, DEAR..
O, ETO ANG CREDIT CARD KO.. IWAN KO MUNA SA 'YO PARA..
INGAT!

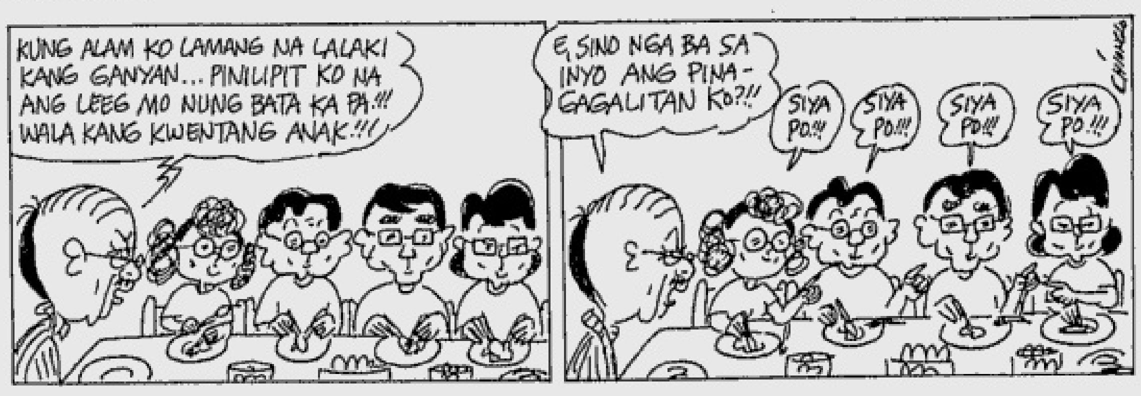
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH, WHAT A PRETTY ROOM!
THIS IS PERFECT-JUST AS I'D IMAGINED IT!
ONLY BETTER!
WHY? THEY HAVE CABLE?

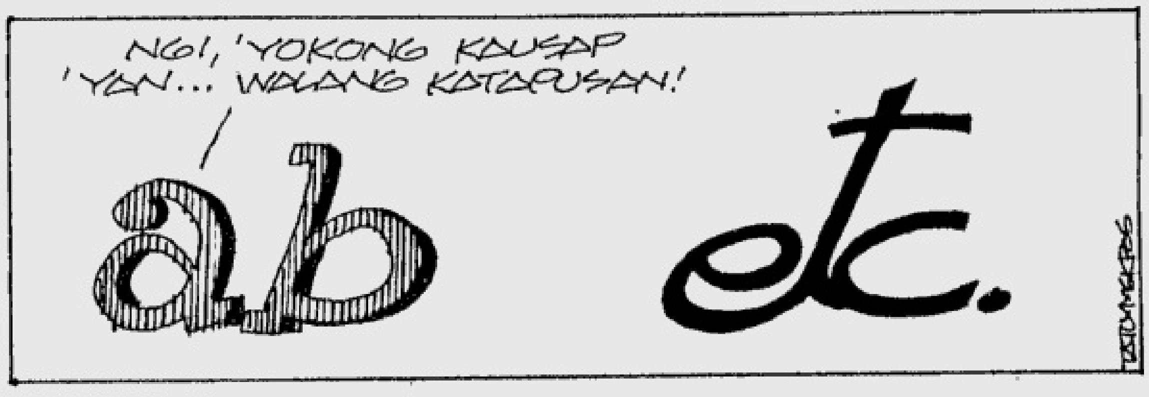
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


umm UY TSONG... BUSY KA BA?... KASI.. um... SABIHIN KO LANG SANA NA NA REALIZE KO PAGKAKAMALI KO SA'YO. 'DI KO NA DAPAT SINASABI SA'YO TUWING ME MGA "NAKIKITA" AKO KUNG SAKALI. SANAY NA NAMAN AKO EH...
'DI NAMAN KITA GUSTO TALAGA TAKUTIN. um... KAYA TATAHIMIK NA LANG AKO.
H-HA? TATAHIMIK KA KUNG ME' MULTO O TATAHIMIK KA NA LANG BASTA?... HUY?!-
HUY! HOY! ME' NAKIKITA KA 'NO?! BA'T NAKATINGIN KA SA'KIN?! HOYH!! ANO BAAAAAH!
AAAA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG ALAM KO LAMANG NA LALAKI KANG GANYAN... PINILIPIT KO NA ANG LEEG MO NUNG BATA KA PA!!! WALA KANG KWENTANG ANAK!!!
E, SINO NGA BA SA INYO ANG PINA-GAGALITAN KO?!!
SIYA PO!!!
SIYA PO!!!
SIYA PO!!!
SIYA PO!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI, 'YOKONG KAUSAP 'YAN... WALANG KATAPUSAN!
ab
etc.

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CINDERELLA MAN • THX
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
2 THE PERFECT CATCH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 DARK WATER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
2:15 4:50 7:25 10.00
7 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 LAND OF THE DEAD
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45
9 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
10 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 LAND OF THE DEAD 10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
4 LOVESTRUCK
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
10:45 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:50
6 DARK WATER
10:30 12:25 4:15 6:10 8:00 9:50
7 A SOUND OF THUNDER 10:20 12:35 2:50
THE BROTHERS GRIMM 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

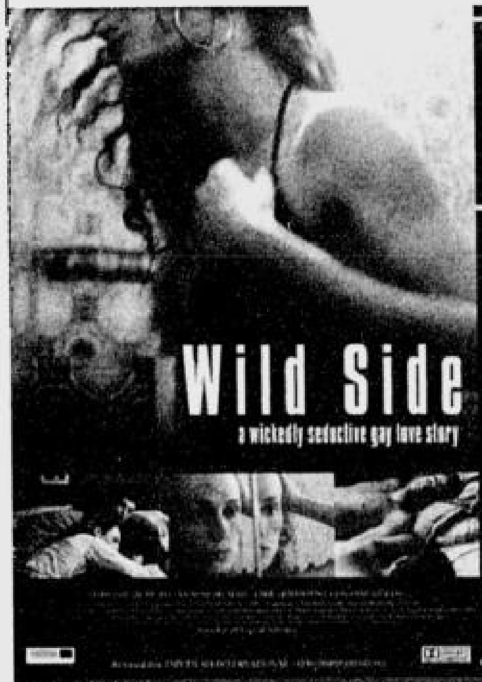
1 CINDERELLA MAN
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00
2 THE CROW 4
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
3 DARK WATER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
6 THE PERFECT CATCH
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
7 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
8 LOVESTRUCK
1.40 4.00 6:20 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 RESERVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER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1 LOVESTRUCK
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4 RED EYE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE LONG WEEKEND

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 RED EYE
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE CAVE
2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE LONG WEEKEND
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 THE CAVE
6 RED EYE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 RED EYE
2 THE CAVE
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 SKY HIGH

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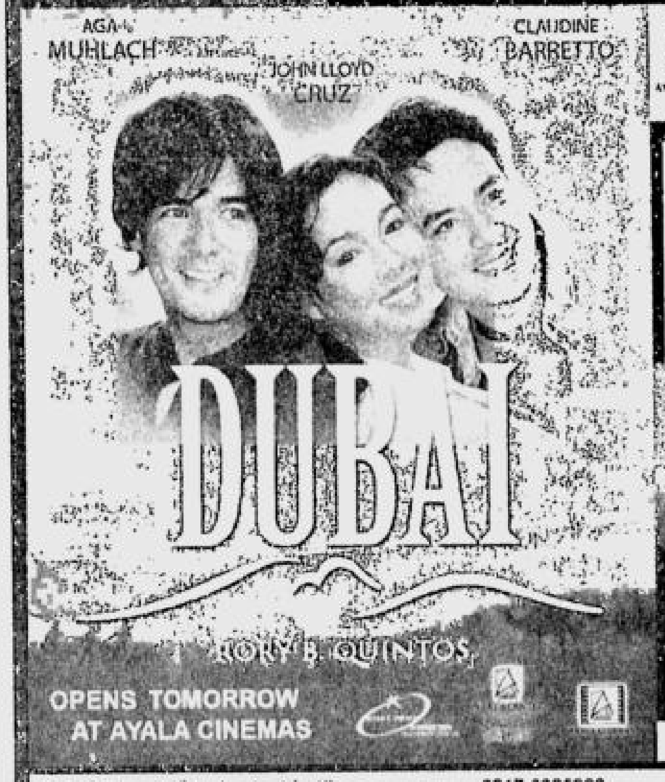
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	PERFECT CATCH
	2	DARK WATER
	3	BLADE OF THE ROSE
	4	LAND OF THE DEAD
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	PERFECT CATCH
	2	DARK WATER
	3 THX	LAND OF THE DEAD 12 30, 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	RED EYE
	5	CONSTANT GARDENER
	6	CINDERELLA MAN
	7	THE BROTHERS GRIMM
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	PERFECT CATCH 12 45, 3 00, 5:15, 7:30, 9 45
	2	A SOUND OF THUNDER 1.00, 3:00, 5 00
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	PERFECT CATCH 2 15, 4 30, 6 45, 9 00, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	CINDERELLA MAN 2 00 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	DARK WATER 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	PERFECT CATCH 2 15 4 30 6 45 9 00, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	CONSTANT GARDENER 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	DARK WATER
	2	PERFECT CATCH
	3	LAND OF THE DEAD
	4	CINDERELLA MAN
	5	CONSTANT GARDENER
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	CINDERELLA MAN
	2	DUKES OF HAZZARD
	3	VALIANT
	4	A SOUND OF THUNDER



OPENS TOMORROW AT AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating Parental Guidance 13

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Pelicula film fest screens 26 Spanish-language movies

FROM SEPT. 29 TO OCT. 16, 26 AWARD-winning films from Spain and Latin America will be screened at Greenbelt 1 cinemas by Institute Cervantes, the Spanish Cultural Center. Highlights:

On Oct. 7, the Pelicula film fest presents Amenabar Night, an evening dedicated to the films of **Alejandro Amenabar**, the exceptionally gifted young director who has helped bring Spain to the forefront of world cinema.

Three of Amenabar's movies will be screened: "Abre los Ojos" is about rich and handsome Cesar, who wakes up the morning after his 25th birthday to find both his face and his life horribly distorted. This movie inspired the Hollywood remake, "Vanilla Sky."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"Tesis" is about Angela, a student writing a thesis on violence in the media, who discovers a snuff film during her research. She tracks down the killers and is herself hunted down as she gets closer to uncovering the truth.

His latest film, "Mar Adentro," is based on the true story of Spanish quadraplegic **Ramon Sampedro**, played by **Javier Bardem**, and his 30-year battle to be allowed to die with dignity. Although Ramon is bound to his bed, he draws others to him, including two women who vow to help him achieve his goal.

On three special nights, Pelicula also features the best of Latin American films:

Oct. 2, Argentina Night, screens "El Abrazo Partido," a charming comedy by **Daniel Burman** set in a Buenos Aires shopping mall. It tells the story of Ariel, a college dropout who hopes to escape working behind the counter at his mother's lingerie store. But first, he must agree to a long-overdue reunion with the father he has been running away from all his life.

Oct. 10, Chile Night, features "Subterra," an epic romance by **Marcelo Ferrari.** The film is set in the mining town of Lota, Chile, in 1897. It's about a workers' uprising that takes place in what was then the largest coal mine in the world.

Mexico Night

Oct. 6, Mexico Night, screens "La Ley de Herodes" by **Luis Estrada**. A savage satire of political corruption, the film received nine Ariel Awards in 2000, including Best Direction and Screenplay.

Other highlights: Oct. 5 is Women's Rights Night, marking the centennial of the formation of the first feminist group in the Philippines. Two films will be on view:

"Te Doy Mis Ojos" is about Pilar, who leaves her abusive husband, Antonio, and takes her son, Juan, to live with her uncomprehending sister. Desperate to win his wife back, he sends her presents and undergoes therapy. Directed by **Iciar Bollain.**

And "Extranjeras" is a documentary by **Helena Taberna** about various immigrant women in Madrid.

The Ciclo Goya is a series of films that have won Spain's equivalent of the Oscars: "Los Lunes al Sol" with Javier Bardem; "Todo Sobre Mi Madre" by **Pedro Almodovar**; the heart-wrenching "El Bola;" "La Buena Estrella," "Dias Contados" and "Nadie Hablara de Nosotros Cuando Hayamos Muerto."

For more information on these and other film fest attractions, call 5261482, or visit http://manila.cervantes.es.

'Dream On'

MARK **Bautista** has launched his new CD-Lite release, "Dream On." Aside from the title track, the CD features "I Need You," "You Win the Game," "If By Now" and "When Will I See You Again," a duet with **Raymund Manalo**, with **Sarah Geronimo** and **Rachel Ann Go** singing background vocals.

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8th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) CINE EUROPA 8
2 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD R13
3 (DOLBY) THE CONSTANT GARDENER
4 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) DARK WATER PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2 (SDDS) SKY HIGH
3 (DTS) THE PERFECT CATCH
4 (GOLD DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
5 (GOLD DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER
6 (GOLD SDDS) DARK WATER
7 (GOLD DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
8 SOUND OF THUNDER
9 BLADE OF THE ROSE
10 LOVE STRUCK

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tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
2 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH
3 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 WEDDING CRASHER
2 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE
4 LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 (DOLBY) RED EYE
3 (DTS) WEDDING CRASHER
4 LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) MUST LOVE DOGS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DTS) RED EYE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 DARK WATER

Blue Wave Marquinton
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
2 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH
4 (DOLBY) LONG WEEKEND

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DARK WATER
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE STRUCK
5 CONSTANT GARDENER

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 ELVIST HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
3 CRUSH
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 BLADE OF THE ROSE
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 LOVE STRUCK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 VALIANT
2 LONGEST YARD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS EX) RED EYE
4 LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LONGEST YARD
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE
4 (DTS) DUKES OF HAZZARD

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SKELETON KEY
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LONGEST YARD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
6 SOUND OF THUNDER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 ELVIST HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE EYE INFINITY
2 TIKIM
3 INIT NG DUGO
4 (DTS) ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) LONG WEEKEND
2 LIPSTICK
3 (DTS) RED EYE
4 WEDDING CRASHER
5 LOVE STRUCK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RED EYE
3 DUKE OF HAZZARD
4 LOVE STRUCK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 U-BELT
2 SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR

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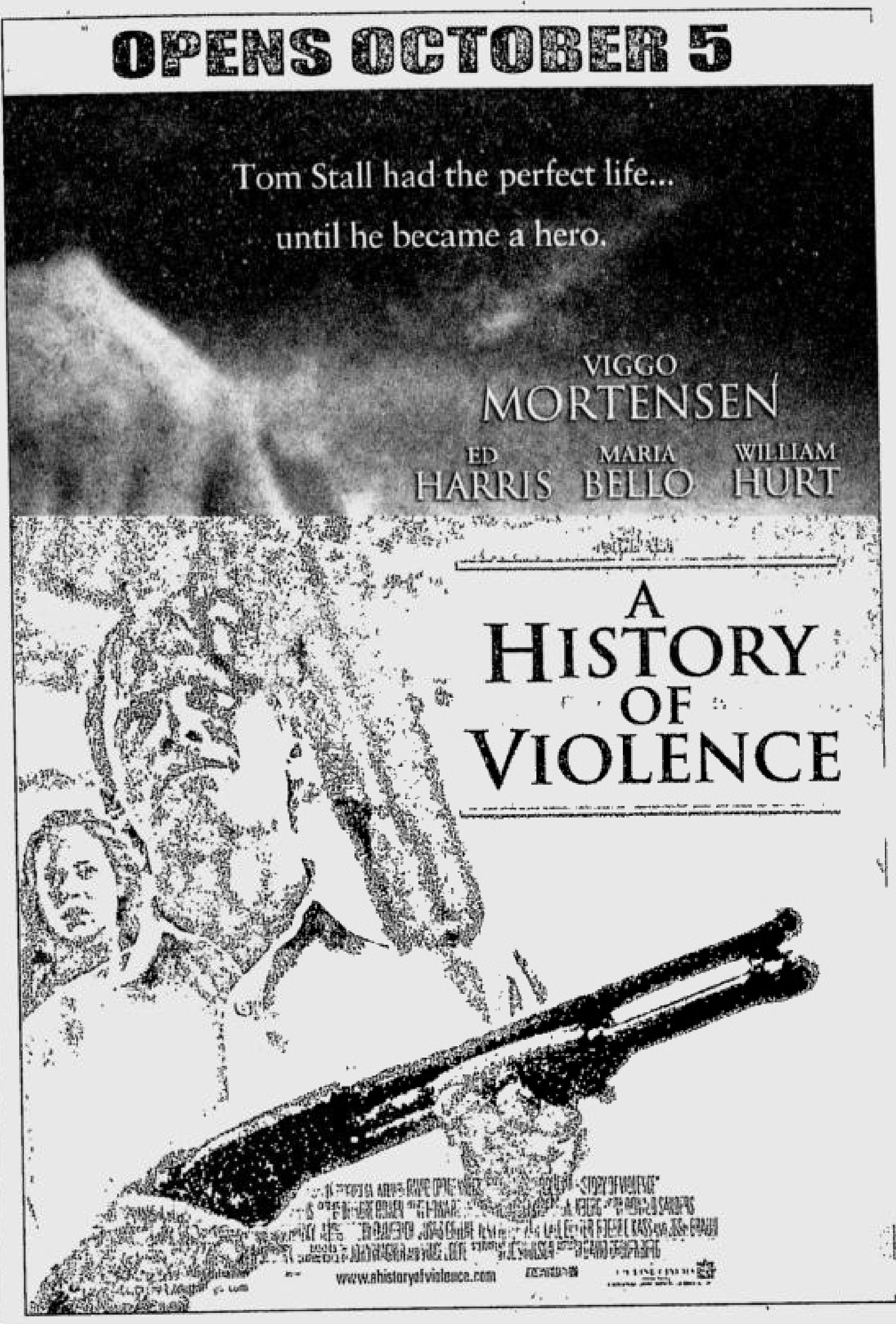
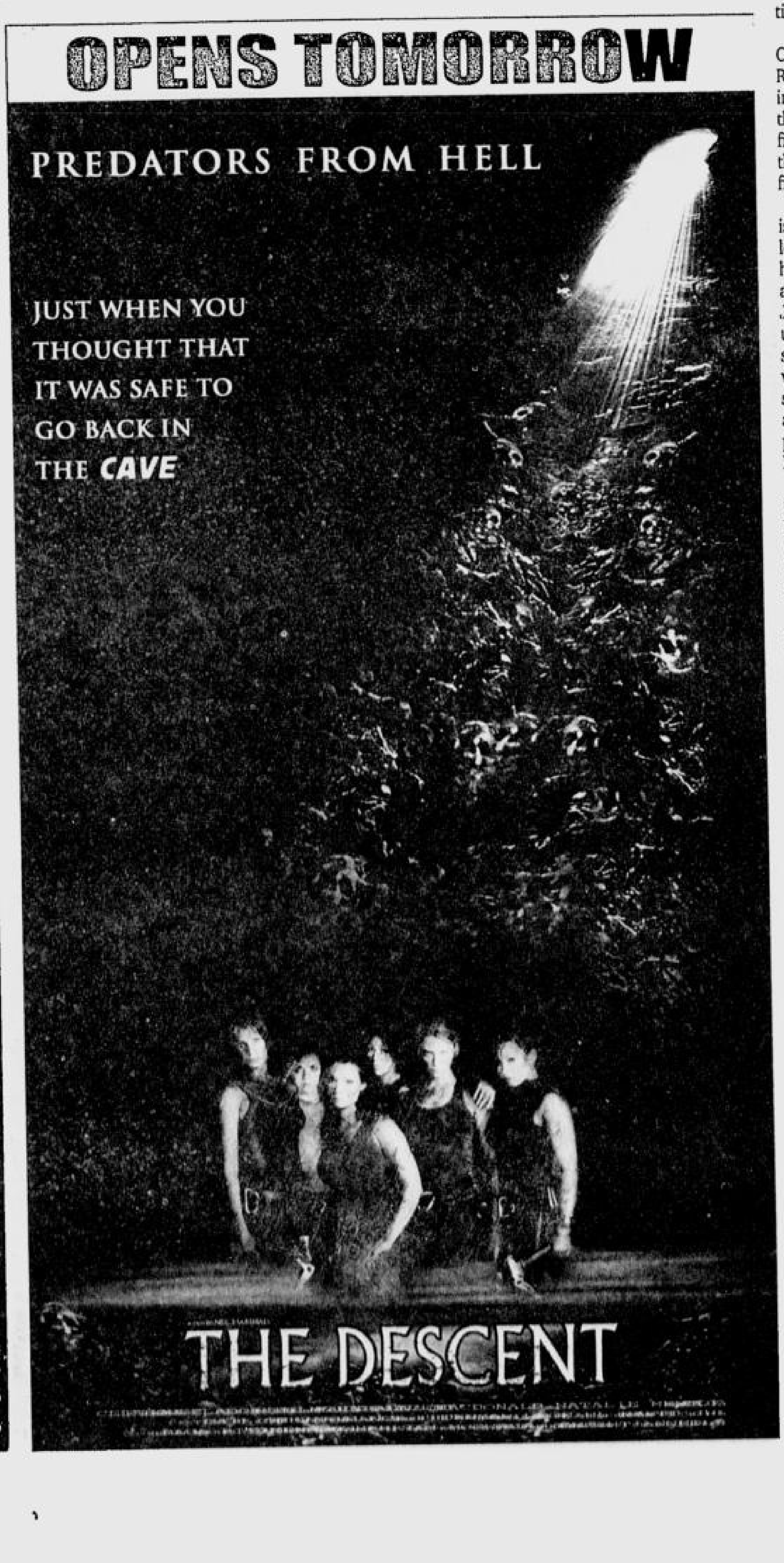



OPENS TOMORROW
PREDATORS FROM HELL
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE CAVE
THE DESCENT

BAMBOO

'LightPeaceLove!' be with you

SPIN CITY

BAMBOO FOLLOWS UP "NOYPI," "AS THE Music Plays" and "Mr. Clay" with another potential hit, "Hallelujah," from their latest album, "LightPeaceLove!"

The album, under EMI-PolyEast Records, has also been dubbed "March-May Sessions" because it took three months in the studio."

Bamboo's four hardworking rockers are Bamboo Mañalac, vocals; Nathan Azarcon, bassist; Ira Cruz, guitars, and Vic Mercado, drums.

Come to 'Fix You'

From Coldplay's globe-conquering new album, "X&Y," comes the second single, "Fix You," the first to feature vocals by all four band members.

The best-selling British band is winding up a two-month tour of the United States.

COLDPLAY

'Eye to the Telescope'

Irish-Chinese singer-songwriter KT Tunstall debuts with "Eye to the Telescope," which consists of what she calls "kitchen table songs, like a conversation between me and one other person."

The album has gone gold in KT's native Ireland, and has sold 100,000 copies in the United Kingdom.

KT Tunstall

IC: I'm sure …

From page A28

bers. IC's co-stars are Ced Carreon, Orlando Sol, Joe Armas, Chester Nolledo, Derik Cruz, Dennis Recto, Rhodge Bermudez, Mes Ancheta and Lukas Gatino.

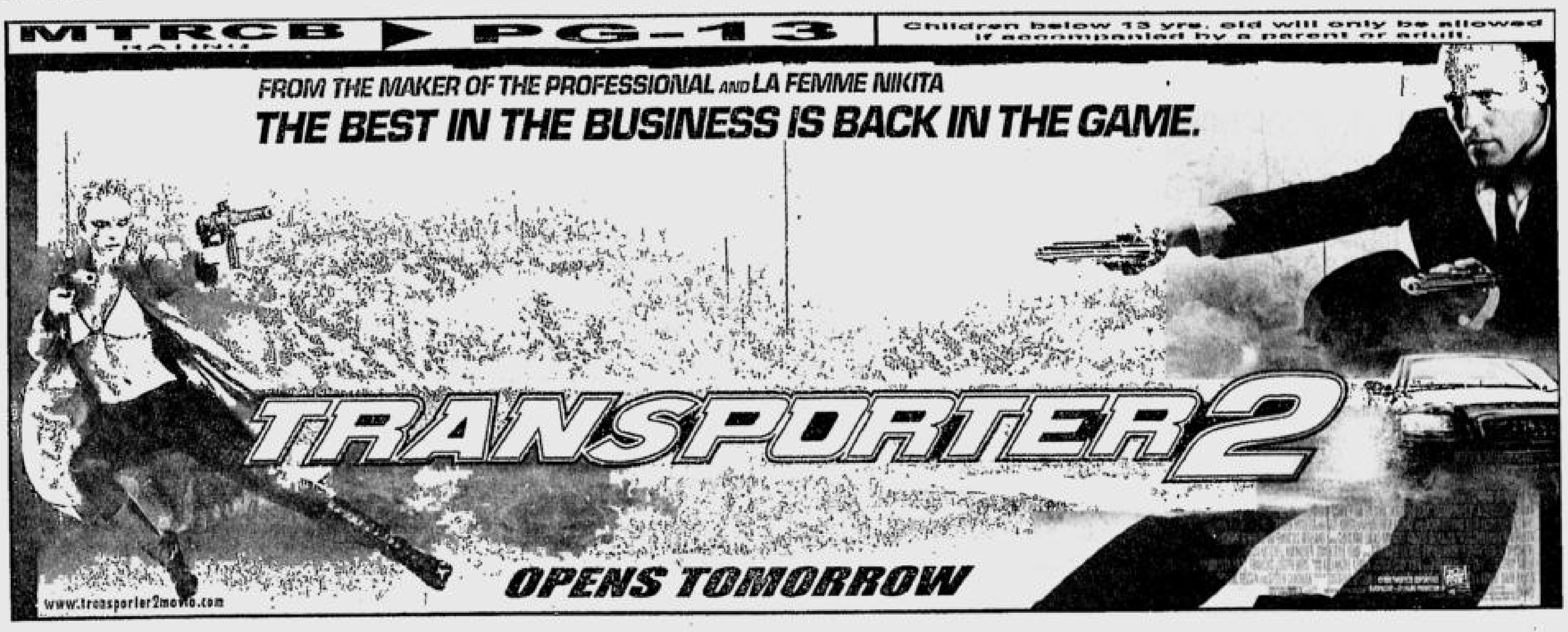
"All of us have illusions, but we should try to remain realistic and make the most of what we have," IC pointed out. "For instance, at first I was hesitant to come out, for fear of discrimination. But people accepted me, maybe because I was just being true to myself."

"Ilusyunada," is slated to run subsequently in other venues in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao, said Robert.

The for-adults-only revue (IC himself needed to secure a parental consent, being only 17) is not going under the scrutiny of the MTRCB. Even so, Robert said, the production is practicing self-censorship.

"At first I was shy with the boys, but they welcomed me with open arms," said IC. "They're all professional, *at ang gu-gwapo nila*, but my favorite is Chester."

His Mommy Luds would have loved this play, IC said.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TOMORROW!
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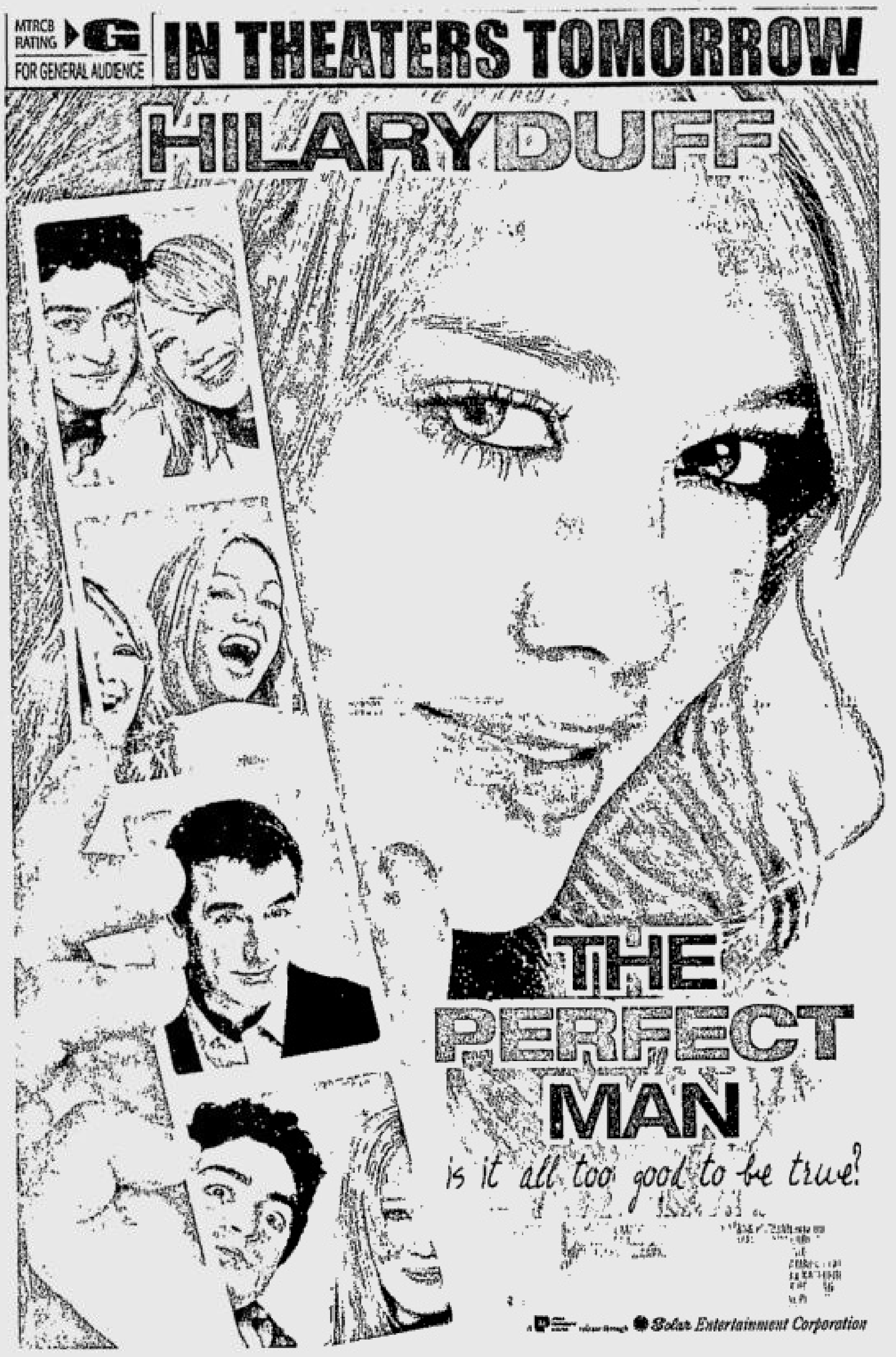
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FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
IN THEATERS TOMORROW
HILARY DUFF
THE PERFECT MAN
is it all too good to be true?
Solar Entertainment Corporation

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For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
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1	LAND OF THE DEAD	1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
2	PERFECT CATCH	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00	GP
3	DARK WATER	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	CONSTANT GARDENER	11:40, 2:25, 5:10 7:55, 10:40	PG-13

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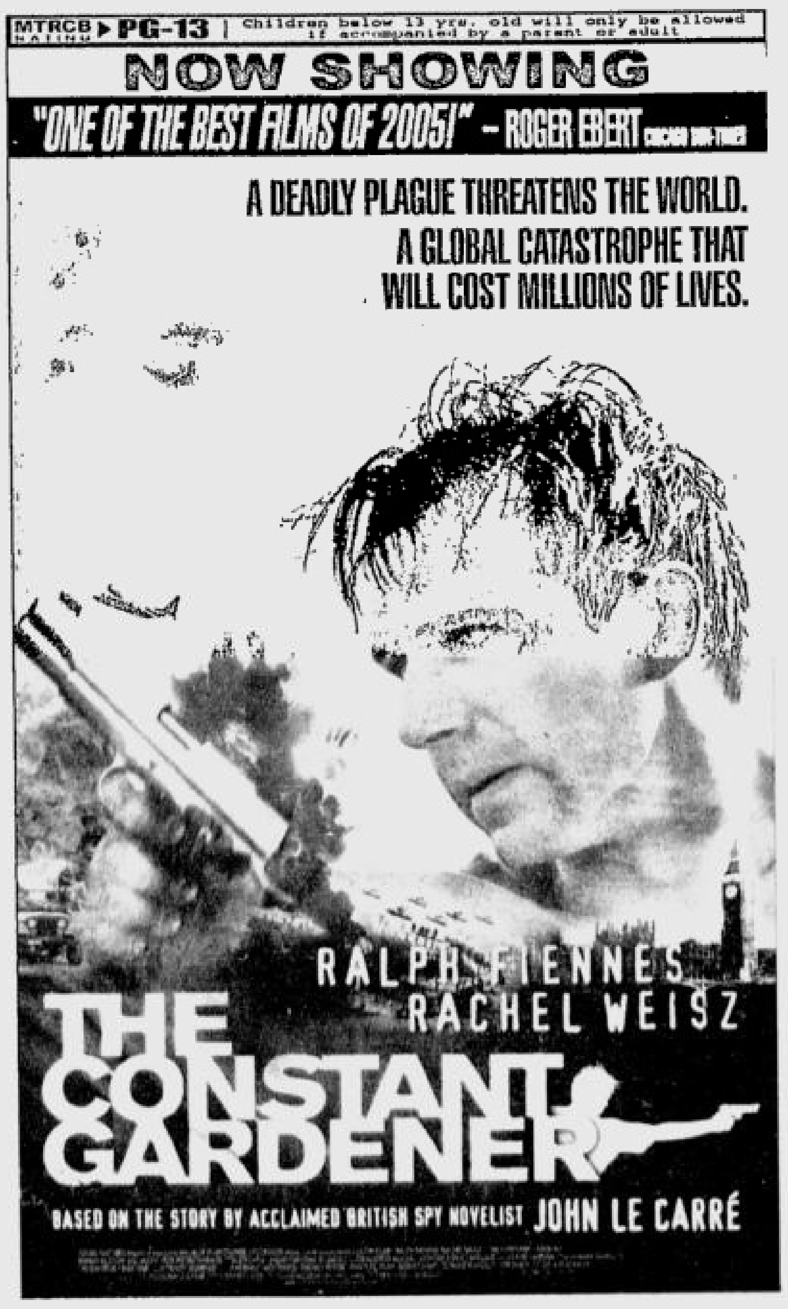
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CINDERELLA MAN PG13 12:45,3 45,6:45,9:45	BLADE OF THE ROSE PG13 1:10,3:30	CONSTANT GARDENER PG13 12:15,2 45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
DARK WATER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15	LAND OF THE DEAD R13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	PERFECT CATCH GP 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15,10:25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RALPH FIENNES
RACHEL WEISZ
THE CONSTANT GARDENER
BASED ON THE STORY BY ACCLAIMED BRITISH SPY NOVELIST JOHN LE CARRÉ

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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2ND WEEK
FROM ORDER TO CHAOS…
A DEVASTATED WORLD UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE
NEW SPECIES OF TERROR THAT DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS
CAN MANKIND SURVIVE THE APOCALYPTIC FUTURE?
A SOUND OF THUNDER
MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.

Running on True Faith and waxing sentimental

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ALLOW ME TO WAX SENTIMENTAL JUST for now. I guess that's what turning a year older does, huh?

It's been my birthday tradition to celebrate with my all-time favorite band, True Faith, holding a "free mini-concert." I can really count on them, especially their band leader, **Medwin Marfil**, even when I have no money to count. Gosh, I can't afford to pay them even a quarter of their talent fee! That's why I feel so "spoiled" when the guys clear their schedule just to sing for me and my guests.

For a change, I didn't have a big party this year. Still, I spent the eve watching True Faith's gig at Aruba. When the clock struck 12, they serenaded me with their song that I love the most, "Sa Kaniya." It never fails to send chills down my spine! I may be an old soul, but a free spirit like me will always be young. True Faith's music soothes those two parts of me through all the September 22s of my *la vida loca-luka*.

Now it's my turn to sing for True Faith—sing praises, that is. I am more than happy that they are finally embarking on a long-overdue US concert tour. It's high time Fil-Ams got a taste of the band's cool, cool music. For my readers online in the US, check out True Faith's show on Sept. 30 at Space 550 in San Francisco, Oct. 7 at Paladinos in LA, Oct. 8 at Brick by Brick in San Diego, Oct. 14 at Don Hills in New York and Oct. 23 at Elbow Room in Chicago. For details, log on to www.truefaith-ustour.com. To hear is to believe! That's what True Faith is all about.

No coincidence

Of course my birthday would be meaningless if I didn't visit my Mom. How can I forget that she held on to dear life four days more just to be around for my birthday two years ago before she went to heaven on Sept. 26? From my Day 1 on earth, my mom and I were already in for a lot of excitement. Imagine, she gave birth to me in a taxicab! She chose among the names Lotus (the taxi company), Taxina and "Madalian"—and opted for the last one, the Tagalog way of saying Ma. Dolly Anne. That early, my mom could already read my mind.

I know it was no coincidence that I was at Merk's Bar and Bistro on the day after my birthday for the press con of **Pauline Wilson**. I grew up listening to her music when she was still with the band Seawind. Their albums were like my daily vitamins in high school. **Richard Merk** (who owns the place) happens to be my mom's dear friend. I was so touched by his recollection of every good thing that my mom did for him.

I couldn't stop crying that night. Many other stars forgot, but that's all right. As my mom always told me, "I just paved the way for them. The rest is because of their talent. If they remember me, that makes me happy. If they don't, just seeing them succeed is enough reward for me."

I remember seeing Richard at ungodly hours pouring his heart out to my mom. He looked back: "During my troubled years when I was still with Guy (**Nora Aunor**), I was so lost. Your mom took me in. She helped me understand Guy more. I'm glad my wife, **Roni**, and I had the chance to have a good time with her here at my bar a few months before she passed away."

For sure, Richard and I will be talking endlessly about my mom again when we watch Pauline's show tonight and tomorrow night. Just like me, my mom was a music lover. She was no singer, but her voice has left an indelible mark in show biz—the **Inday Badiday** voice that was like no other, that voice that stars and fans listened to with their hearts. Happy second "birthday" in heaven, Mom. The angels must be giving you voice lessons because I can hear you louder and clearer now.

Baywalk Bodies on fire

After their infamous streaking and bold pictorials, the Baywalk Bodies are set to heat up the concert stage for their first anniversary in show biz tonight and tomorrow at Metro Bar on West Avenue, Quezon City.

The girls' irrepressible manager, **Lito de Guzman**, vows, "*Wala silang hindi ipapakita! Ilalabas nila lahat ng* talent *nila* in singing and dancing, *pati lahat ng parte ng katawan nila*. For sure, *luluwa ang mata ng* male audience! But even females and gays will enjoy the show because the girls will be joined by the Baywalk Machos!"

For sure, there will be no walkouts.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com)

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 CINE EUROPA 8
4:00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 LMF
3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
MTRCB PG-13
1:25, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10 LMF
4 PERFECT CATCH
MTRCB: GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE DARK WATER
MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre
Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P180
Premiere Theater - P296 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4736 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

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JIMMY FALLON
She's into work. He's into sports.
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THE PERFECT CATCH
BASED UPON A BOOK BY THE AUTHOR OF 'ABOUT A BOY'
NOW SHOWING

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 LAND OF THE DEAD - R13 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 2 BLADE OF THE ROSE - PG13 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CONSTANT GARDENER-PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 4 DARK WATER PG13 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 5 PERFECT CATCH GP 11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM October 1, 2005 MYMP 8:30PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL·EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
PERFECT CATCH 12:50 / 3:30 / 6:10 / 8:50
LAND OF THE DEAD 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20
DARK WATER 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
CONSTANT GARDENER 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
BLADE OF THE ROSE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
PERFECT CATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
CINDERELLA MAN 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
THE BROS. GRIMM 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
LOVESTRUCK 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 DARK WATER 12:25 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
3 LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 LOVESTRUCK 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Sep 29 Thursday UAAP FINAL FOUR if nec. OR UAAP GAME 1 FINALS
THE OTHER SIDE... SARAH GERONIMO September 30 Friday 8pm
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MTRCB Rating PG-13
89.1
Andy Garcia Frances O'Connor and Angela Bassett

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MEGAMALL
TRUMPETS LITTLE MERMAID
October 4-7 & 11-15

SM movietime
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 CONSTANT GARDENER
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:40/06:20
08:35LFS/09:00LMF11:15END
2 PERFECT CATCH
02:00FS/02:30MF/04:40/06:50
08:35LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END
MEGAMALL
CONSTANT GARDENER
11:00FS/11:25MF/02:00/04:45/07:30
09:45LFS/10:00LMF12:15END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20
09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END
3 CINDERELLA MAN
10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
CONSTANT GARDENER
CINDERELLA MAN
THE CAVE
PERFECT CATCH
BROTHERS GRIMM
LAND OF THE DEAD
RED EYE
DARK WATER
SOUND OF THUNDER
THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
LOVESTRUCK
BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
CINDERELLA MAN
LONG WEEKEND
LAND OF THE DEAD
A SOUND OF THUNDER
BLADE OF THE ROSE
DARK WATER
LOVESTRUCK
PERFECT CATCH
BROTHERS GRIMM
THE CAVE
RED EYE

SM NORTH EDSA
DARK WATER
BROTHERS GRIMM
LOVESTRUCK
CONSTANT GARDENER
LAND OF THE DEAD
SOUND OF THUNDER
PERFECT CATCH
BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY MANILA
THE CAVE
CONSTANT GARDENER
PERFECT CATCH
BROTHERS GRIMM
LAZARUS CHILD
A SOUND OF THUNDER
LONG WEEKEND
BLADE OF THE ROSE
LOVESTRUCK
THE CROW 4:I WICKED PRAYER
LAND OF THE DEAD
DARK WATER

SM CITY STA MESA
LAND OF THE DEAD
A SOUND OF THUNDER
DARK WATER
LOVESTRUCK
BLADE OF THE ROSE
THE CAVE
BROTHERS GRIMM
CONSTANT GARDENER
PERFECT CATCH
THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
LAND OF THE DEAD
LOVESTRUCK
BLADE OF THE ROSE
DARK WATER
PERFECT CATCH
CONSTANT GARDENER
A SOUND OF THUNDER
BROTHERS GRIMM
THE CAVE
CINDERELLA MAN

SM SAN LAZARO
LAND OF THE DEAD
DARK WATER
BROTHERS GRIMM
A SOUND OF THUNDER
PERFECT CATCH
LOVESTRUCK

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
DARK WATER
LAND OF THE DEAD
LOVESTRUCK
A SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY BICUTAN
LAND OF THE DEAD
LOVESTRUCK
THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
DARK WATER

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
THE CAVE
DUKES OF HAZZARD
LONG WEEKEND
RED EYE
LONGEST YARD
LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
RED EYE
LONG WEEKEND
LAND OF THE DEAD
DARK WATER
A SOUND OF THUNDER
LOVESTRUCK
THE CAVE
BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARINAS
A SOUND OF THUNDER
LONG WEEKEND
LOVESTRUCK
CINDERELLAMAN

SM CITY LUCENA
SKY HIGH
LOVESTRUCK
RED EYE
DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM CITY BAGUIO
SKY HIGH
VALIANT
LOVESTRUCK
LONGEST YARD

SM CITY MARILAO
LONG WEEKEND
CINDERELLA MAN
LOVESTRUCK
RED EYE

SM CITY BATANGAS
RED EYE
LOVESTRUCK
LONGEST YARD
SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
BROTHERS GRIMM
DUKES OF HAZZARD
CINDERELLA MAN
VALIANT
LOVESTRUCK
SKY HIGH
A SOUND OF THUNDER
LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
LONGEST YARD
RESERVED
ICE PRINCESS
LOVESTRUCK
SKY HIGH
THE CAVE
RESERVED
RED EYE

SM CITY DAVAO
THE CAVE
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
SKY HIGH
RED EYE
CINDERELLA MAN
BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
THE CAVE
LOVESTRUCK
SKY HIGH
DUKES OF HAZZARD

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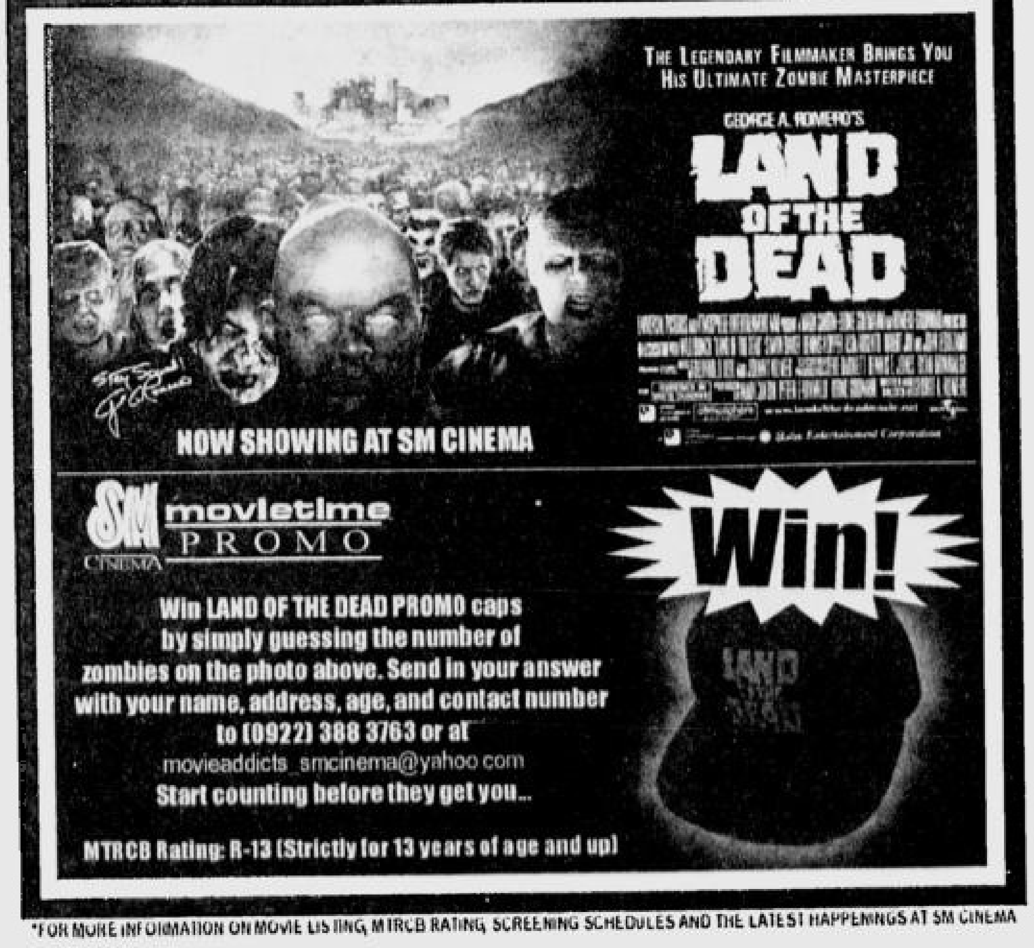

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Start counting before they get you...
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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

IC: I'm sure Mommy Luds knew I was gay

"I MISS her everyday."

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

FORMER CHILD ACTOR IC Mendoza, who's on a blazing comeback trail, regrets that his grandmother, Inday Badiday—original queen of talk in local show biz—was no longer around when he came out of the closet recently.

"But for sure she already knew I was gay, and was only waiting for me to confirm it," IC told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

Inday Badiday, Lourdes Jimenez Carvajal in real life, died on Sept. 26, 2003, after a lingering illness. She pioneered talk shows in the Philippines, hosting programs like "See True," which ran for seven years; "The Truth and Nothing But," four years, and "Eye to Eye," 10 years. She was also known for her public service and generosity.

IC is the son of Inday's daughter, Dolly Ann Carvajal. He said he and his mom lived with his "Mommy Luds" for 13 years.

"I miss her everyday," said IC. She refused to be called Lola because, she said, she was ageless. I found out how old she was only when she passed away, and I'm not telling."

IC recalled that watching movies was a staple activity at Mommy Luds' home. One day, he said, the two of them watched three horror movies one after the other. "That was a real bonding time," he laughed.

The young actor admitted that he often wondered if his grandmother's connections could have made it easier for him to revive his career. "It gets frustrating sometimes," he sighed. IC's film credits include the Robin Padilla and Vina Morales starrer, "Utol Kong Hoodlum."

Stage play

Since deciding to give it another try, IC has guest-starred in various TV shows and is now a regular co-host in the "Showbiz Hellouer" segment of GMA 7's "S-Files." He also leads the cast of the sex-comedy revue titled "Ilusyunada," set Oct. 4 and 11 at the Metro Concert Bar.

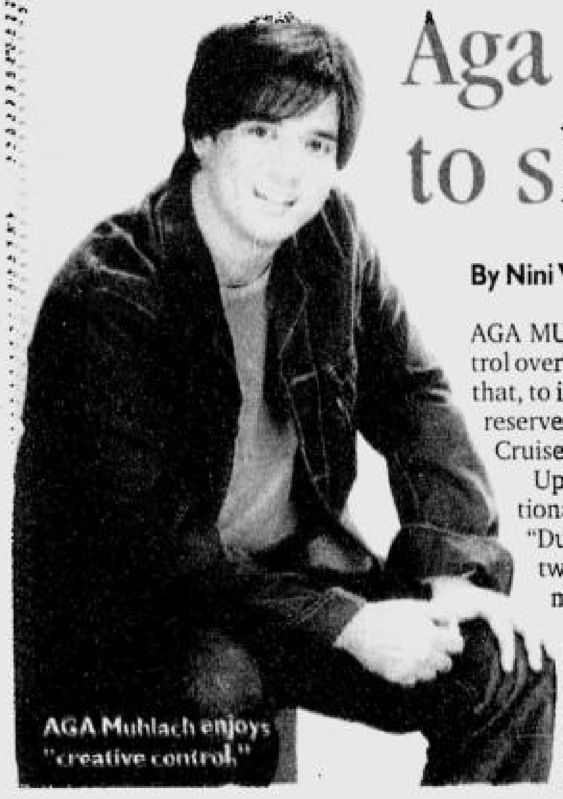
He didn't mind taking over the original choice for the role—Teri Onor, who's also part of the "Hellouer" gang, along with Alessandra de Rossi and Jeremy Marquez. "He's like my *Ate*," IC said of Teri.

"Ilusyunada" is the brainchild of director Maryo J. delos Reyes, according to the show's associate producer, Robert Espinosa. "*Direk* wants to revive the after-dinner live show scene since the movie industry is down. Delos Reyes would have directed "Ilusyunada," if not for his hectic schedule, Robert said. "So he asked Soxy Topacio to do it."

Written by Galo Ador Jr., "Ilusyunada" presents a gay man's fantasies through a series of comical situations and musical num-

IC: I'M SURE/ A26

Aga Muhlach flew back to Dubai to shoot just one more scene



AGA Muhlach enjoys "creative control."

By Nini Valera

AGA MUHLACH HAS CREATIVE CONtrol over his movie projects—a privilege that, to illustrate, Hollywood producers reserve only for someone like Tom Cruise.

Upon Aga's insistence, an additional scene for his latest movie, "Dubai," was shot in the desert two weeks ago. (The film's premiere showing is set tomorrow.)

Aga went back to Dubai with co-star John Lloyd Cruz, director Rory Quintos, and the production crew to shoot for that one scene which cost Star Cinema an additional P1 million.

"I don't know if that's what you call creative control, but when I suggest something, they listen," Aga told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Maybe my suggestions make sense."

Like most of Aga's recent films, "Dubai" took about five months to make.

"It takes me a while to get into the story and my character," Aga explained. "The first time I read the script, I felt uneasy. I wanted the story, the characters, to be more real; I wanted the audience to be curious. We went through several re-writes."

Twelve, to be exact. Aga was finally happy with how the story—about two brothers and the one woman that they both loved—flowed.

Let me be

Aga said he usually warned his wife, Charlene, to be more patient with him when he's making a movie.

"I tell her to let me be," he said. "[because] *lalabas ang topak ko*, (she'll see the worst of me)."

The actor admitted that he was looking forward to what the movie critics would say about "Dubai," which he described as "not an ordinary" OFW movie.

"It's about how an OFW lives out there," said Aga, referring to his character, Raffy, based on a real-life OFW in Dubai. "And I actually met this guy on whom the character was based."

ROUNDUP

Demi, Ashton wed

LOS ANGELES—Actors Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher were married on Saturday, capping their celebrated two-year-long older woman, younger man relationship, two celebrity magazines reported on Sunday.

Representatives for Kutcher, 27, and Moore, 42, could not be immediately reached for comment, but both US Weekly and People magazine reported on their websites that the couple was married in Los Angeles area on Saturday.

US Weekly reported that the wedding was attended by about 100 of the couple's friends, including Moore's second husband, Bruce Willis. Also at the wedding were actress Lucy Liu and Moore's three daughters from her marriage to Willis.

This is the first marriage for Kutcher and third for Moore. Reuters

US top 10 movies

LOS ANGELES—Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co., official box-office tracker:

1) "Flightplan," $24.6M; 2) "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride," $20.1M; 3) "Just Like Heaven," $9.8M; 4) "Roll Bounce," $8M; 5) "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," $7.5M; 6) "Lord of War," $4.9M; 7) "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," $4.3M; 8) "The Constant Gardener," $2.2M; 9) "Transporter 2," $2.15M; 10) "Cry Wolf," $2.1M.

TV premiere

"MEDICAL Investigation" premieres tomorrow, 9 p.m., on Star World. Starring Neal McDonough and Kelli Williams (in photo) the series tackles medical mysteries with a non-sensational approach. Its US launch is said to have attracted 13 million viewers.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

THIS SUNDAY... 3 OF THEM ARE OUT!

HOLLYWOOD DREAM

Hosted by: Eric Quizon

Raymond Bagatsing Pinky Amador Rafael Rosell Julia Clarete Roxie Barcelo

SUNDAY 9:00PM

ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision	New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Ting ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Cupids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Asian X-Games				Sentro	Strange But True	Idol				Big News	Three Blind Dates		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hoteler	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		For Love Or Money 3		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	The 70's House	MTV Pop Inc		Laguna Beach	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		MTV Play		Diyes		Burned	Newlyweds	Advance Warning	Handpicked: Barbie Almalbis	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport.	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports		TV Shopping											Sports Desk						
Cinemax	Relentless			Silent Rage			Stranger At The Door (5:45 PM)				Beverly Hills Cop II (7:20 PM)			Silver			Tales From The Crypt Presents Bordello Of Blood		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Regenesis		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Mysterious Way		Regenesis		Christy: Choices Of The Heart			Agency II (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfabulative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel				Ancient Egyptians		Austin Stevens				Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery				Science Mysteries	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		The Mafia		Riddles Of The Dead		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Interpol Investigates		Air Crash Investigation	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Hey Arnold!		All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN		Lost		Lost		Now See This	Now See This	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Amazing Race 5				Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Reno 911	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Crank Yankers	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Legal Eagles (3:45 PM)				Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (5:45 PM)				Daddy Day Care			Deadwood 06: Plague		Deadwood 07: Bullock Returns To The Camp		Mona Lisa Smile (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				Dangerous Waters: Shark Attack (3:50 PM)			Rangers (5:20 PM)			Wicker Park (7:05 PM)				Calendar Girls				The Vault (10:50PM)	
Cinema One		Sino Ang May Sala?				Nagbabagang Luha				Bad Boy 2				Pinay Pie				Boy Negro	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millenium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory 8	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

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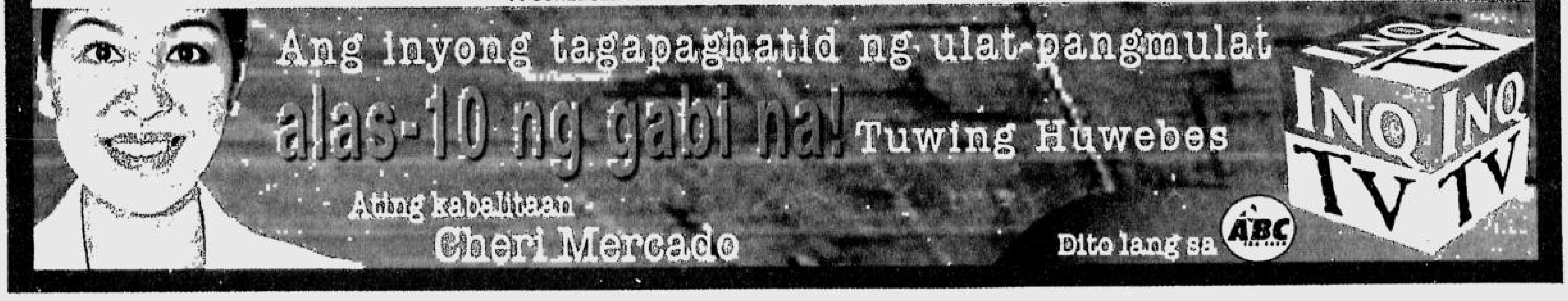

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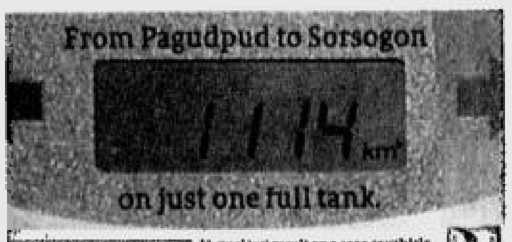

XTRA
*Actual test result on a 1300cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.
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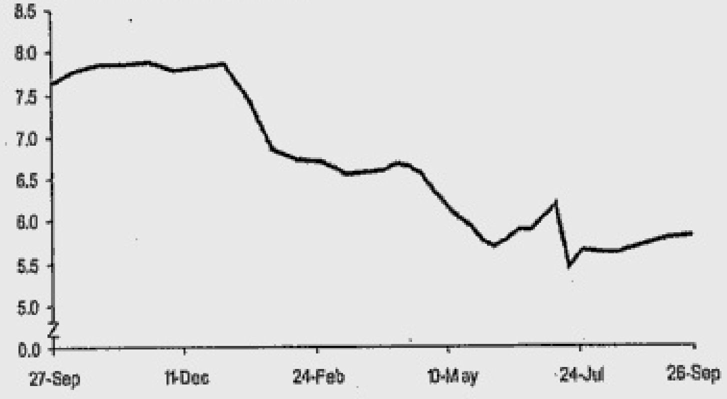
Vehicle insurance fraud alarms gov't

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
Sept. 27 2004 to Sept. 26, 2005



T-bill yields advance on BSP rate increase

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES SLIGHTLY rose across all maturities yesterday following the move of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to raise its key interest rates by 25 basis points last week.

The Bureau of Treasury was forced to allow a minimal increase in the yields of short-term government securities yesterday after rejecting all bids during last week's auction.

The bellwether 91-day rate, used by banks in pricing loans, inched up by 4.5 basis points to 5.818 percent, while the 182-day debt instrument fetched a yield of 8.103 percent, or 8.7 basis points higher than the previous. The 364-day T-bill rate climbed by 8.4 basis points to 9.049 percent. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

"The increase in the rates was not bad. By and large, the market still enjoys a high level of liquidity," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

He noted that about P5 billion worth of previously issued treasury bills would fall due this week, thus boosting market liquidity.

But the Treasury's auction committee rejected some of the bids for the three-month bills to avoid a much larger increase in yield. The Treasury accepted only P1 billion worth of tenders for the 91-day bills compared with the government's usual debt offering of P2 billion for each maturity.

For the 182- and 364-day bills, which were both oversubscribed, the Treasury accepted P2 billion worth of bids. Tenders for six-month bills reached P4.5 billion, while that for the one-year paper amounted to P3.37 billion.

Nearly half of motorists holding fake certificates of coverage

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALARMED OVER THE SURGING INCIDENCE of fraud uncovered by the Insurance Commission among vehicle insurers providing compulsory public and third-party liability coverage.

In an inter-agency government meeting Friday, the IC reported a proliferation of fake certificates of coverage (COCs) that, in turn, had led to the non-payment of claims to affected motorists and taxes to the government.

The meeting was attended by top representatives from the departments of transportation and communication and of finance and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

Based on the IC's accounts, the collectible TLP premiums being reported to the government were much lower than what should be collected based on the number of private vehicles registered with the Land Transportation Office, indicating leakages from taxable premiums on vehicle policies.

For instance, the IC reported that of the 4.3 million vehicles registered with the LTO in 2003, collectible premiums should be about P2.57 billion, but only P1.38 billion was reported. This means that nearly half of the vehicles covered were issued with fake COCs

"Those which reported are the legitimate insurers. The others are fly-by-night and therefore, the policies they issued were fake," a source privy to the meeting explained.

Based on the number of vehicles registered with the LTO, the IC further reported that the government should have collected P579 million from premium taxes in 2003, but instead only P310 million was paid during the period.

During the period reviewed by the IC, the government lost a total of P635 million from fraudulent TLP coverages—with uncollected taxes hitting P221 million in 2001, P146 million in 2002 and P268 million in 2003.

But more important than the foregone revenues, the massive fraud discovered by the IC meant that people incurring third party liabilities—like when they get involved in a vehicular accident injuring other people—might be holding fake COCs and be unable to collect when they needed it.

The source said the government was now trying to find ways to solve the problem.

"The vehicle owners won't even know their coverage was fake until they need to file their claim and couldn't find the insurer," the source said.

Based on the IC's report, vehicles registered with the LTO had risen from 3.86 million in 2001 to 4.19 million in 2002 and reaching 4.3 million in 2003.

This means collectible premiums should have reached P2.32 billion in 2001, P2.5 billion in 2002 and P2.57 billion in 2003. However, the premiums reported for the period were much lower at P1.34 billion, P1.86 billion and P1.38 billion, respectively.

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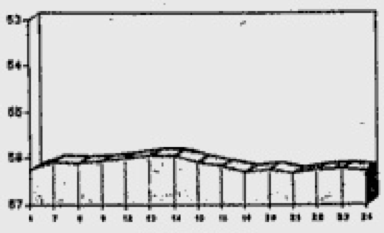
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



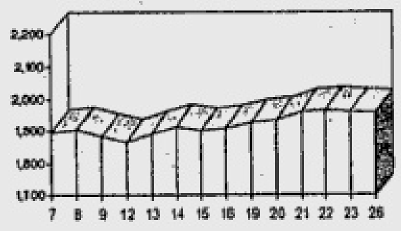
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 56.27 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 26, 2005

Y 112.52= $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 26, 2005

GOLD: 465.00-465.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 23, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares decline 0.2%

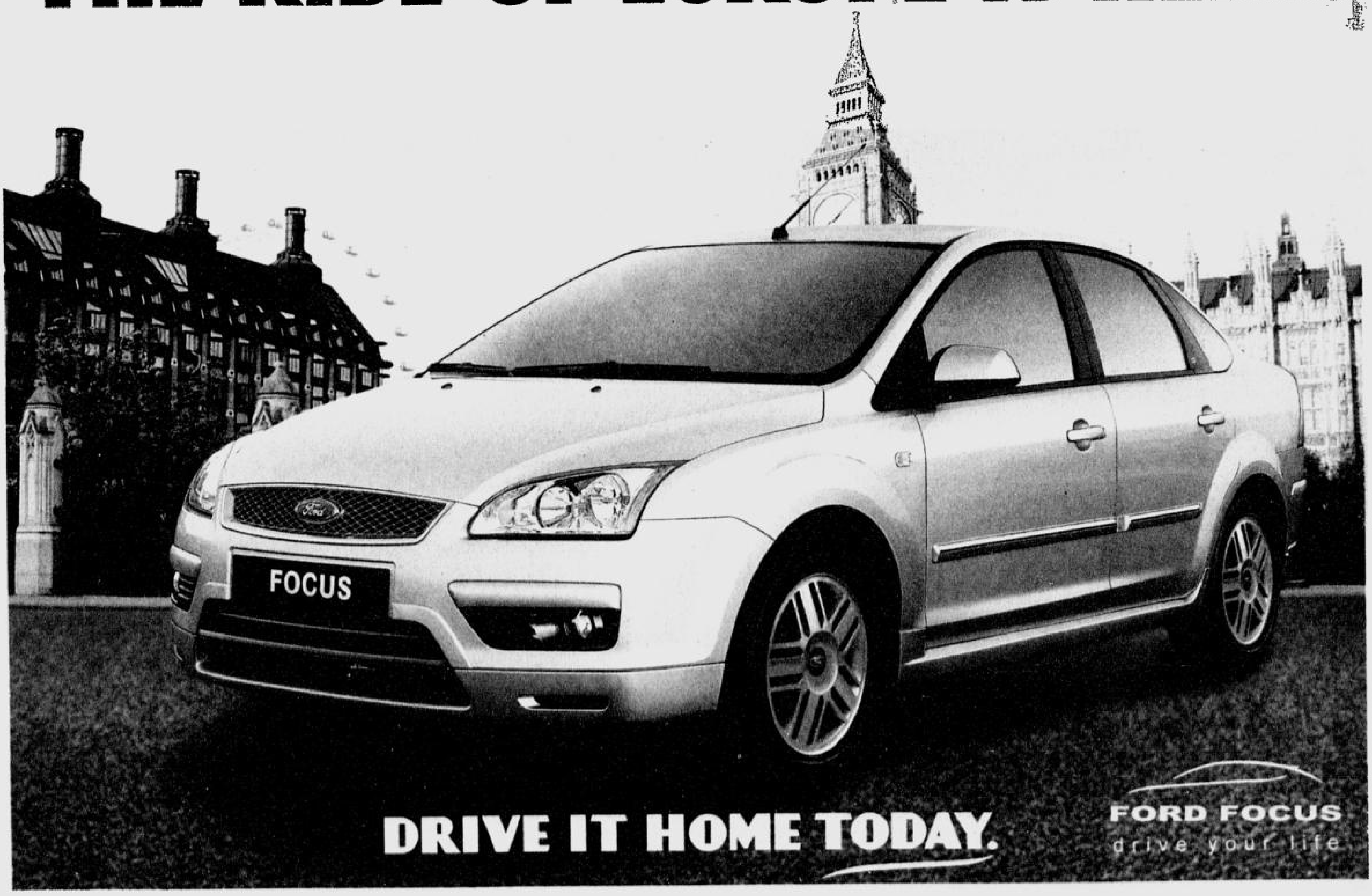
SHARES slipped yesterday, pulled down by declines in stocks of the Ayala group.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 4.77 points, or 0.2 percent to 1,954.74, adding to its 0.3 percent loss Friday. Prior to Friday's fall, the index had gained 3.3 percent in five straight sessions.

"There's no direction right now in the market, because of the lack of fresh leads for investors to follow," said Westlink Global

SHARES/ B2

THE RIDE OF EUROPE IS HERE.



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DOF out to ease locators' tax woes

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE will submit to the Senate a draft bill seeking to condone the back taxes of economic zone locators.

The bill is supposed to resolve the government's dilemma on what kind of tax treatment ecozone firms are entitled to.

Earlier, the Supreme Court said the ecozone firms should not have been granted the fiscal incentives they had long enjoyed.

The high court said the Republic Act No. 7227, which grants tax and duty-free perks, only covers locators at the Subic economic zone, and excludes all other ecozones.

Some ecozone firms protested the decision, warning that they would be forced to pull out their investments from the country should they be asked to pay back taxes.

According to a source from the DOF, the draft bill seeking to condone back taxes of ecozone firms is but one of two choices open to the government. The other option calls for the collection of back taxes with an amnesty provision to reduce the locators' actual liabilities.

"This has to be done immediately to resolve the conflict," the DOF source said.

The source noted that the high court's decision concerning the economic zone in Camp John Hay was made with finality, while the one covering Clark is up for reconsideration.

The draft bill condoning back taxes has to be accompanied by a bill amending RA 7227 to legitimize the granting of fiscal incentives in the future, the source said.

Regulator reviews Pamana liquidation

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) will review the conduct of the liquidation of assets of shuttered pre-need firm Pamana Inc.

According to Jesus Martinez, SEC's pre-need oversight commissioner, the SEC will step in and take over the liquidation of the closed pre-need firm once it finds that the proceeds from the sale of the company's property assets are not going to Pamana's trust fund for the settlement of claims.

Pamana has an estimated 5,000 plan holders, sources at the SEC said.

At present, the company is conducting its own liquidation of assets, or the sale of property, to meet obligations to plan holders.

He said that the pre-need firm's property assets are worth roughly P130 million.

Perhaps the good news, according to Martinez, is that Pamana's property assets may exceed its liabilities to plan holders.

In 2001, Pamana was not allowed to sell plans after it ran into financial troubles.

Pamana's liquidity crunch was brought about by bad investments in real estate and the sale of traditional plans, or plans that promised to pay tuition fees regardless of their amount at a given point in time.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Beyond reasonable debt

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FUNNY BUT IT'S TRUE: THE broke but still cute administration of Gloriaetta indeed plans to borrow some P20 billion for the unfinished Naia terminal 3.

At the moment, however, the plan is still what it is—just a PLAN.

Reports said that the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines is tasked to arrange the P20-billion financing package, or about $350 million. Hmm.

But the amputated proponents of the BOT project, the local firm Piatco and the German firm Fraport, are asking for $450 to $600 million in compensation.

Moreover, after this cute administration expropriated Naia 3, allegedly due to "anomalies," it found out that, just to finish the project, it would need $100 million more.

Thus, to finance the opening of Naia 3, this broke but still cute administration must raise some $550 million—at the very least. That's more than P30 billion easily!

* * *

IF the DBP knows how to count, how come the bank is said to be raising only $350 million, or about P20 billion at the current exchange rate of the peso?

So I called up DBP president Reynaldo David—who, by the way, is still in Washington DC—and asked him if P20-billion would be enough.

It turned out that, indeed, the DBP was looking—just looking—at arranging the financing package for the government takeover of Naia 3.

Yes, the seasoned banker David also thinks that P20 billion may be insufficient, since this cute administration must also provide for the terminal's operating capital.

And no, the DBP still does not have an official mandate for the loan syndication from the borrowing entity, which is the MIAA, or Manila International Airport Authority.

At this point, in other words, this cute administration still needs to show, beyond any doubt, that it is a reasonable debt.

* * *

AND so, this broke but cute administration is trying its best to bury us under a mountain of debt.

But if that is so, why does Gloriaetta allow the government-run GSIS to squander its money?

The GSIS only happens to be the pension fund of thousands of government employees. Who cares if GSIS is throwing away their money, right?

Ironically, the GSIS happens to be an "accidental" investor in Naia 3, for which this cute administration is trying to borrow a sea of money.

The GSIS owns 15 percent of Manila Hotel which, in turn, already bought 20 percent of Piatco, and is said to be buying another 30 percent of Fraport.

Also, the main stockholder of the Manila Hotel is none other than newspaper owner Emilio Yap, who is known simply as "Don" Emilio to his puppets in media, business and government.

When the "Don" supposedly "bought" Manila Hotel from GSIS several years ago, he also forgot to pay for only about P1 billion of the buying price.

And the GSIS does not mind. If it's not squandering the members' money, my real name is Jose Velarde Pidal.

* * *

AT THAT time when GSIS was privatizing Manila Hotel, the "Don" went to the Supreme Court, asking it to award him the right to buy the hotel, for the simple reason that he lost in the bidding.

Naturally, the Supreme Court decided in favor of the "Don," by virtue of a long held principle in magic known as "national patrimony."

Thus, the "Don" must reward the seller GSIS, by forgetting to pay for some P1 billion in the acquisition of the hotel.

Up to now, according to GSIS insiders, the "Don" still owes the GSIS that P1 billion—and maybe plus interest, and thus interest on interest, for several years now!

Just exactly how much that P1 billion could have earned for the thousands of GSIS members, is up to the GSIS board of trustees to answer to the public, perhaps in a congressional inquiry one of these days, if our beloved lawmakers will dare to call for one.

You see, the most wonderful miracle is, the GSIS does not even lift a finger to collect from the "Don." Not even the interest? Well, not even the parking fee!

* * *

ANYWAY, as everybody knows, except perhaps the GSIS board of trustees whose names we must find out one of these days, the Manila Hotel is after Naia 3.

Since the Manila Hotel already bought 20 percent of Piatco, and it reportedly wanted to buy out the German firm Fraport's 30 percent interest in the same company, then the GSIS, as 15 percent owner of Manila Hotel, is already a part owner of Piatco.

Now, the government is trying to borrow a lot of money, precisely to be able to operate Naia 3 by paying for the claims of Piatco.

It's just a question of the amount. Nobody knows the amount, actually, because Piatco refuses to open its books.

In case the government and Piatco arrive at an agreement on the compensation, it should be good for the stockholders of Piatco.

They should, by inference, include the Manila Hotel, which is majority owned by the "Don," and partly owned by GSIS up to 15 percent.

The question is, if up to now the GSIS does not even collect on the debts of the "Don," will the government's payment of compensation for Naia 3 also be good for the GSIS?

Hint: The GSIS has yet to get some handsome dividends from its 15 percent holdings in the Manila Hotel up to now.

* * *

WE ALL know that the Naia 3 project is caught in a mess, with millions of court cases filed by both the government and Piatco against each other.

They even included a case alleging that Fraport only used the Filipinos in Piatco as "dummy" to skirt the legal ceiling on foreign investments in projects like Naia 3.

Anyway, despite all that trouble, the "Don" had willingly and wilfully squeezed himself into the picture.

He probably knew something that we didn't know and still don't know.

It is said that, as owner of the major daily Manila Bulletin, the "Don" wields immeasurable influence in the government.

That he can use such an influence to make a killing out of the Piatco deal (i.e. Naia 3), cannot be ruled out at all.

I mean, come on, the "Don" already showed us what he is capable of doing.

Let's not even talk about the Manila Hotel case. Let's just recall the stiff resistance to the anti-money laundering law in Congress some years ago. Guess who was said to be behind it!

* * *

BUT how does one make money out of a project like Naia 3 that ran way, way above budget?

Under the original proposal, the project was estimated to cost $300 million, and the tandem of Fraport and Piatco now claims to have spent $450 to $600 million.

How could the proponent recover that kind of money even if they were allowed to operate the terminal?

Simple—by killing us, the public, with all sorts of airport fees! Ultimately, whichever way the project goes, the public pays for all of it.

And so how can the "Don," by buying into a problematic venture, make money out of it?

For one, he can simply sway this cute administration to agree with Piatco on a one-sided compensation package for the terminal project.

Again, who ultimately pays for the handsome considerable compensation package?

* * *

FOR now standing in the way of the government's plan to operate Naia 3, finally, is this squeeze play from the "Don."

Even if the "Don" has no, er, "sway" with this cute administration, he has already showed us that he could be unbeatable in court.

Reportedly, he spent more than P1 billion for the 20 percent holdings in Piatco.

Anyway, having risked that kind of money in a problematic venture, the "Don" should only be expected to look out for his interest.

Nobody can blame him. He needs to make some money. After all, he still owes GSIS members that P1 billion, plus interest, and interest on interest.

Pre-need clients block PPI move to sell plans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PLAN HOLDERS OF TROUBLED Pacific Plans Inc. are blocking the pre-need firm's move to become a dealer of fixed-value education plans.

In a Sept. 23 petition filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEPC) cited the stay and suspension payments order on PPI issued by Branch 61 of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

According to the PEPC, the stay order is still in force, effectively suspending all claims against PPI since the rehabilitation proceedings have not yet been terminated while its petition for rehabilitation has not been dismissed.

PPI officials yesterday refused to comment on the move of its plan holders.

Last May, the SEC told the court that it found PPI "guilty of fraud in its transactions prior to, and in connection with, its dealings, which resulted in the filing of the petition for rehabilitation."

PEPC said the pre-need firm should not be allowed to sell education plans. The SEC itself, according to the group of plan holders, believes that PPI's hasty move to go to court "appears to be a ploy."

The SEC claimed that PPI's petition for rehabilitation was filed instantly so it could prevent the regulator from pursuing administrative measures against the firm.

The SEC also said that PPI's sale of assets to related companies was a fraudulent scheme to keep its assets away from the reach of its plan holders.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 26, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	375,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53	498,000
China Banking Corp.	635	645	630	645	300
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	12,700
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	3,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	15,800
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33	14,000
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	175,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2870	2870	2870	2870	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	49,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2055	2055	2035	2035	160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	5,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	2,020,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	770	765	765	40,600
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	113,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	55,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	3,400,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	2.95	2.95	755,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1645	1650	1645	1650	134,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	110,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	123,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	2,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.5	347,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	6,062,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	1,694,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1.02	1	1.02	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9.1	9	9	1,121,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	80,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	637,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	80,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	61,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36	35	35	146,300
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65.5	66	42,300
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	94	93.5	94	153,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	8,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,280,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	290	292.5	285	285	67,220
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	99,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	2,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.06	303,000
APC Group Inc.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.25	110,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	25,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	937,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	470,000
CADP Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.175	0.175	210,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	710,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.55	1,807,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.029	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	166,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	139,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	42	41	41	460,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	3,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.7	96,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	32,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	3,428,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	13,250,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	130,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	300,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.04	1.1	105,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	126,000
SM Investments Corp.	206	215	206	213	162,910
South China Resources Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.135	0.145	590,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.26	0.22	0.25	3,820,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	1,500,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	4,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	20,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	1,061,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	480,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	30,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10.5	10	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	7,166,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	3,580,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	382,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	390,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,005,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	140,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	2,641,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.06	1.06	1	1	470,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.06	1.06	1	1	485,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	53,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.1	6.1	6	6	426,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	350,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	21,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	58,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	93,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.9	4,540,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	1,316,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	28	28	36,300
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	19,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.2	4.2	446,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000

Shares decline ...

From page B1

Equities Chairman Rommel Macapagal.

Major contributors to the fall were Ayala Corp., which lost 2.6 percent at P285, and its unit Ayala Land, lower by 1.3 percent at P7.90.

Another active stock was Ayala affiliate Globe Telecom, which fell 0.7 percent to P765.

Limiting the market's fall were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rose 0.9 percent to P1,650, and SM Prime, up 1.4 percent to P7.50.

AP

CURRENCIES

September 26, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830358	1.000000	56.2680
Japan	Yen	0.007384	0.008892	0.5003
United Kingdom	Pound	1.474716	1.776000	99.9320
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107017	0.128881	7.2519
Switzerland	Franc	0.642592	0.773874	43.5443
Canada	Dollar	0.709041	0.853898	48.0471
Singapore	Dollar	0.493174	0.593930	33.4193
Australia	Dollar	0.629249	0.757805	42.6402
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.202599	2.652590	149.2559
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221429	0.266667	15.0048
Brunei	Dollar	0.491714	0.592171	33.3203
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020193	0.024319	1.3684
UAE	Dirham	0.226089	0.272279	15.3206
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.204300	67.7636
Brazil	Real	0.365475	0.440141	24.7659
Denmark	Kroner	0.134063	0.161452	9.0846
India	Rupee	0.018958	0.022831	1.2847
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220371	0.265393	14.9331
Mexico	New Peso	0.076651	0.092311	5.1942
New Zealand	Dollar	0.570379	0.686908	38.6509
South Africa	Rand	0.130379	0.157015	8.8349
Korea	Won	0.000806	0.000971	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025061	0.030181	1.6982

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MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I DID NOT WRITE LAST WEEK BECAUSE I did not feel up to it. I am sorry if that was shellfish of me but I ate some clams and got 'clamydia.' My mussels still ache. No more crushed Asians for a while.

I went to the hospital to have my blood test and there were two technicians in there, the gentle girl and the national darts champion. I expected the worst because last time, he threw the syringe from a distance of six feet, right into the center of my vein. It was an incredible throw but I still have the bruise. When it came to my turn, he put on his gloves, stepped back six feet and was then called to the telephone. So now I believe in divine intervention. The girl took my blood painlessly and I congratulated her on a jab well done.

I remember some years back when India discovered a cure for some tropical disease. They advertised in the Bombay Times, "If you come here to the Punjab, we can cure you now with one jab."

It was my wife's birthday and she wanted a sports car, maybe a Jaguar. She asked me for something, which would go from O to 200 in four seconds. So I bought her a bathroom scale. I now sleep in the other room.

Have you noticed that the letters Rita all appear in Katrina? Also, Venable is part of the ven(er)able Mr. Gonzales.

Pancake House, after waffling for a few days, made a bid to buy a 70-percent steak in Teriyaki Boy. Next morning, Pancake House shares opened flat.

Did you know that Al Gore invented algorithms?

***

WHEN I wrote two weeks ago, I pointed out that there were a number of positive developments and that investors should not become too preoccupied with the political scene. Unfortunately, I forgot to mention that the Phisix was at absolute zero in terms of risk. Readers of my newsletter were put on red alert the day before and told to buy on the first sign of strength. On Tuesday, the market opened about five points higher so the BUY signal was activated and there were about a dozen leading blue chips standing at zero risk. These included TEL (up P125), GLO (up P70), AC, ALI and SMPH. All these stocks and several others did very well as the index rose 50 points in two days and has risen since. The index is now at high risk so I have advised them to take profits.

As expected, the central bank raised its overnight borrowing rate by a quarter of a point on Friday. This is a feeble attempt to support the peso and reduce inflation. The main cause is the price of oil, which has risen by over 60 percent since a year ago and has been

BEARBULL/ B4

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Clark to increase flights to 50 a week starting October

By Clarissa S. Batino

CARRIERS FROM HONG KONG, Taiwan and Thailand are scheduled to fly to and from the Clark airport starting next month, Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport inside the former military airbase would increase its flights to 50 a week from the current 37 beginning October with the entry of new airlines.

The Clark airport is expecting to nearly double the number of passengers to 40,000 by next month from the current monthly average of 22,000, the transport chief added.

"Clark is the future of aviation. The increased activity is due to the government's decision to open Clark skies to low-cost carriers," he said.

The Arroyo administration had declared Clark as open skies for cargo carriers in 2003. Last year, it also liberalized the entry for passenger airlines.

Families of overseas Filipino workers in nearby countries like Singapore and Malaysia have been taking advantage of cheap air fares being offered by budget airlines operating from Clark, Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the new carriers were from Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Express, according to a source, would start operating initially chartered flights to and from the former military airbase. Thai Air Asia is still following up on its request to launch a Bangkok-Macau-Clark route.

Malaysia's AirAsia Berhad and Singapore's Tiger Airways Ltd. have been operating from Clark since April. These carriers have already increased their flights to keep up with the demand.

Before the two budget carriers, Korea's Asiana Airlines was the only commercial carrier using the Clark airport. Asiana had not only increased flights in Clark but had also started flying to the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

Passengers are booking flights with the low-cost carriers in Clark because of the cheap fares, especially for those who would buy their tickets months in advance.

Tiger Airways, for instance, offered one-way fares to Singapore for as low as $25 for those who would book three months ahead of departure date.

Additional charges of low-cost carriers using Clark are P540 in travel tax, P350 in terminal fee, P75 in insurance surcharge and P120 in administrative cost.

No-frills carriers promise to bring in more tourists and enhance economic activity especially in Clark.

Since 2004, airlines could fly to and from Clark even outside of the allocations provided by bilateral deals between the Philippine government and other countries.

The Civil Aeronautics Board said it could also liberalize Cebu and Davao airports to spur local tourism and encourage investments.

No-frills airlines usually do not serve free food on board and reserving and buying seats are done through the Internet. Baggage is limited to about 15 kilos a passenger.

The Philippines is a good market for a low-cost service because of its huge population and the people are flexible in booking through the Internet and prefer affordable services, according to an airline official.

CLARK airport is expecting to nearly double the number of passengers to 40,000 by next month from the current monthly average of 22,000

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NOTICE TO EVERYONE CONCERNED

The Supreme Court, in a resolution dated 07 September 2005, confirmed "with FINALITY" its decision dated 15 June 2005 that the equity percentage of the Republic of the Philippines (NOT Independent Realty Corp. nor Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp.) in Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (POTC) is only 35%. (The case is entitled *Republic of the Philippines, et al. vs. Sandiganbayan, et al.* and *Independent Realty Corp., et al. vs Sandiganbayan, et al.* [G.R. Nos. 141796 and 141804].)

FOLLOWING THOSE SUPREME COURT PRONOUNCEMENTS, **POTC HELD A STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2005.** (Notices therefor were sent by Atty. Victoria C. de los Reyes, who the Supreme Court in its resolution had identified as the POTC Corporate Secretary.)

At the said **POTC Stockholders' Meeting** and the immediately-following POTC Board of Directors' Organizational Meeting (where a quorum was present throughout both meetings), the following were elected:

Erlinda I. Bildner	-	**Director and Chair**
Victor V. Africa	-	**Director and President/CEO**
Katrina Ponce Enrile	-	**Director and Treasurer**
Honorio Poblador III	-	**Director**
Kitchie Benedicto Paulino	-	**Director**
Guy S. de Leon	-	**Director**
Rafael A. Poblador	-	**Director**
Victoria C. de los Reyes	-	**Corporate Secretary**

A PHILCOMSAT STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING WAS THEREAFTER HELD (POTC being the 100% registered/beneficial owner thereof), followed by a Philcomsat Board of Directors' Organizational Meeting (where a quorum was present throughout both meetings). The following were elected:

Erlinda I. Bildner	-	**Director and Chair**
Victor V. Africa	-	**Director and President/CEO**
Marietta K. Ilusorio	-	**Director and Vice President**
Katrina Ponce Enrile	-	**Director and Treasurer**
Rafael A. Poblador	-	**Director and Asst. Treasurer**
Honorio Poblador III	-	**Director**
Kitchie Benedicto Paulino	-	**Director**
Guy S. de Leon	-	**Director**
Victoria C. de los Reyes	-	**Director**
John Benedict Sioson	-	**Corporate Secretary**

THE AFORE-SAID MEETINGS WERE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE-REFERENCED SUPREME COURT DECISION AND RESOLUTION. We trust that everyone concerned will deal only with the above-named Boards of Directors, as dealings and contracts with pretender Boards of Directors are subject to nullification and other legal consequences.

With regard to Philcomsat's 81%-owned subsidiary, **Philcomsat Holdings Corporation (PHC)**, a PSE-listed company, advice is hereby given that the above-named Board of Directors and Management will strive for PHC's 2005 Stockholders' Meeting to be held at the earliest possible time, so that a Board of Directors reflective of the owners thereof will be installed. In the meantime, we trust that this notice will be given serious consideration by persons/entities dealing with PHC.

If you wish to ascertain the authority of the persons transacting with you and purporting to represent POTC/Philcomsat/PHC, we strongly advise that you immediately confirm with the undersigned.

E I Bildner
ERLINDA I. BILDNER
Chairman
POTC & Philcomsat

VICTOR V. AFRICA
President & CEO
POTC & Philcomsat

Bearbull

From page B3

increased yet again for the umpteenth time this year. Inflation for 2006 is expected to be 8 percent to 8.5 percent. This is very high compared to Europe and the United States, where inflation is around 2 percent.

A major problem is the deficit. GMA can't budge it. Once the Supreme Court affirmed that the VAT law was constitutional, it should have become operational by Oct. 1. However, an appeal was lodged immediately, so the VAT law remains in limbo for the next few weeks. During this period, Congressman Joey Salceda is expected to get a majority vote to defer the VAT until next June, though why should the economy be in better shape by then, I cannot imagine. Another congressman, whose name I did not see, said that deferring the VAT law until June did not mean that it would be implemented in July. There was no timetable to restart it and the law could be deferred again.

This must be very disappointing for Finance Secretary Gary Teves who has been working hard to bring down the deficit next year by a substantial amount and eliminate it entirely by 2010. Now he will have to find other ways to raise tax and he has already pinpointed text messages. This will make the government even more unpopular with the young voters. It will also probably spell the end of the promos by the telephone companies.

VOIP has now reached the Philippines and this has forced the telephone giants to cut their charges for overseas calls dramatically. Fixed-line holders will now pay considerably less, while the small number of high speed Internet users will pay as little as five cents a minute. TEL will save P3 billion a year annually by paying down its dollar debt over the next 3 years, thanks to huge dividends from SMART. PLDT intends to go into satellite TV next year and this "set alight" the share price.

The International Finance Corp, which is a unit of the World Bank, will provide the Philippines with $120-$130 million next year at not more than 4 percent, repayable in 17 years. This could rise to $ 680 million over the next five years but only if we implement the VAT. This is cheap money and it would be a shame to lose it.

The government is introducing "Partial Law," allowing the police to show less than maximum restraint. The timing is very bad as the people have shown little interest in taking to the streets. The rally in Makati last week was supposed to attract 40,000 people but only 10,000 turned out and many of them were paid to do so. These rallies force the business center of Manila to board up their premises and disrupt the traffic. Why not designate Luneta? A government spokesman suggested the Cordillera Mountains.

In London, we have a huge park, called Hyde Park, in the center of the city. One section, named Orator's Corner, is set aside for people who wish to make their voices heard. They can freely criticize the Prime Minister or even the Queen but they must not stir up hatred or violence against anyone by virtue of their race, religion or sex.

The IMF raised its growth forecast for most of Asia. China was increased from 8.5 percent to 9 percent and India, from 6.7 percent to 7.1 percent. These two countries have a combined population of 2.4 billion, which is 40 percent of the planet. They also upgraded Japan from 0.8 percent to 2 percent as well as South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand. The Philippines remained unchanged at 4.7 percent.

The FED increased rates by .25 percent to 3.75 percent, the 11th increase in as many months. There are many problems to be faced. Rising oil prices is fanning inflation and the dollar is undermined by an unprecedented trade deficit of $600 billion a year. Foreign countries own nearly half of the $4.6 trillion US Treasury bonds, so if America reverted to protectionism, these countries could sell their bonds and cause yields to rise sharply. This would have the same effect as the FED suddenly yanking rates to 6 percent and would cause a collapse in the overpriced housing market, which, in turn, would be reflected in a sell-off in the equity market. That is why the US cannot prevent the loss of American jobs to cheap labor markets in China and India.

Since Greenspan joined the FED in 1987, the world economy has surged from $17 trillion to $44 trillion. The Internet provides opportunities for jobs in the US to outsource to India, the Philippines and China, now 7th largest in the world. This keeps US wages down and encourages cheap imports from China, Vietnam and South Korea. Whoever succeeds Greenspan in December has to walk a tightrope, but he has trained the team well and he is confident that they will continue his good work. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

$500M worth of BSP debts up for refinancing

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas will refinance through fresh foreign borrowings $500 million of its $800 million worth of commercial foreign exchange obligations falling due in November.

An Inquirer source said the Monetary Board had already discussed plans to raise at least $500 million in new loans before the Nov. 12 maturity.

However, the source could not say the form of borrowing the BSP would tap. In the past, the BSP preferred to tap syndicated loans from foreign banks instead of bond flotation.

The BSP's $800 million worth of maturing liabilities represented principal and interest payments to foreign commercial creditors. Its total debt servicing requirements for the year, including obligations to bilateral and multilateral institutions, including the Monetary Fund, were placed at $1 billion.

The BSP last resorted to external borrowings in March last year when it accepted a $500-million loan offered by a syndicate of seven foreign banks. This move helped lift the then depreciating peso, which had fallen to a record low of 56.45 to the dollar due to the market's concerns on the country's dwindling gross international reserves during the period.

On Friday, the BSP reported that its current account yielded a surplus of $1.12 billion or more than six times better than year-ago level.

Aussie mining firm eyes new projects in RP

AUSTRALIAN FIRM INDOPHIL RESOURCES NL said it had reevaluated its exploration program and was now considering opportunities in the country beyond its existing world-class Tampakan Copper-Gold Project.

In advance of an investment analysts tour of the project in mid-October, Indophil managing director Tony Robbins said that while the company's main focus was the Tampakan project, which is a joint venture with local firm Sagittarius Mines, the time was right to take advantage of the improved investment environment and attractive mineral prospects in the country.

"The validation in February this year by the Supreme Court of the right of foreign mining companies to hold up to 100 percent of the rights to mining projects was crucial to a favorable investment environment," Robbins said.

"This validation has since been underpinned by strong, visible support from the Philippine government with the implementation of its Minerals Action Plan, buoyed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's open declaration that her government had moved from a policy of tolerance to one of active promotion of the mineral industry. Further, the industry itself has shown a high degree of coordinated effort."

Robbins said the Indophil team has extensive experience in the Philippines.

"We are better placed than most other explorers or developers to identify commercial opportunities in the Philippines and deliver them. These range from our existing exploration properties to new prospects either in our own right or through strategic alliance."

Toyota joining expanded AEP

THE LOCAL UNIT OF TOYOTA MOTORS Corp. said it was preparing to take advantage of the opportunities arising from the planned expansion of the Automotive Export Program. "We are definitely going to participate if the AEP is expanded to cover the exportation of automotive parts," said Serafin M. Pantaleon, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. senior vice president.

"We have excess production capacities that we would want to utilize," said Pantaleon in an interview. "Aside from that, our IMV project has been quite successful both in the local sales of the units and in the exportation of parts."

Pantaleon was referring to Toyota's Innovative Multipurpose Vehicles project, through wich three vehicle models were introduced—the Hilux pick-up, the Innova minivan, and the Fortuner sports utility vehicle.

The program involves the multi-country assembly of the new models but with parts supplied by different production centers including the Philippines.

He said investment plans would be announced once an executive order expanding the AEP was promulgated.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez earlier said the government was working on a third amendment to the AEP, contained in EO No. 244.

The order provides incentives for the exportation of completely built units at a minimum volume of 10,000 units yearly.

Hernandez said Malacañang was looking at expanding the program to include trucks, buses, motorcycles and completely knocked down kits as well as auto parts exports.

Ronnel W. Domingo

'Sin' tax collection still off the goal

But '05 level higher than year-ago

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S COLLECTION of "sin" taxes, such as the excise tax on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, remained short of the target as of August.

A report from Bureau of Internal Revenue showed that its sin tax collection for the first eight months of the year was P15.38 billion, or 4.3 percent off the target of P16.07 billion for the period.

Of the amount, P11.17 billion came from alcohol manufacturers, including San Miguel Corp., while P4.9 billion was collected from cigarette makers, including Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris.

Although short of the target, the sin tax collection for the eight-month period was higher than the year-ago level. This indicated an improvement, considering that the first semester collection was not only short of the target but was also lower than the year-ago level.

The BIR said its sin tax collection in January to August 2004 was only P14.361 billion.

In working for the passage of the sin tax bill last year, which raised the taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, the Arroyo administration said the tax measure could raise P15 billion in incremental revenue for the government.

BIR officials said the lower-than-expected revenue collection from sin taxes was a result of the front-loading of production and factory withdrawals by cigarette and alcohol firms late last year in anticipation of the Sin Tax law's implementation last January.

The official explained that the increase in the sin tax collection during the eight-month period compared to last year was brought about more by the increase in the tax rates than on the volume of supply withdrawals from factories. Sin taxes are imposed upon the withdrawal of cigarette stocks and alcoholic beverages from manufacturing plants.

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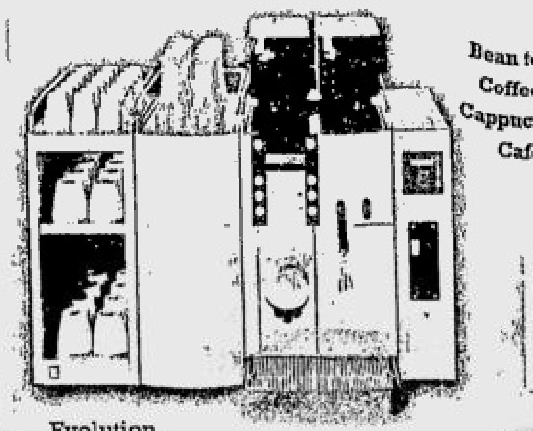

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September 28 - 30 11:00AM - 6:30PM
October 1 11:00AM - 5:00PM

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

ROOM A TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS

Sept. 28 (Wed.)	
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Septic Tanks and Grease Traps
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	More than Yellow, More than Just Pages
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Energy Savings in Compressed Air Production
4:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Evalene Seminar - All You Need to Know About Plastics
Sept. 29 (Thurs.)	
11:00am - 11:45am	
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Predictive Maintenance Program - Infrared Thermography
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	Connectivity - The Intelligent Wireless Connections
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Introduction to 2D Barcode (Data Matrix) Technology
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Benefits of Knowing your Compressed Air Usage -
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Advertising & Information: Trend to the Future System Integration
Sept. 30 (Fri.)	
11:00am - 11:45am	Shimadzu Total Support for ROHS Compliance
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	CAT Rental Store Product Presentation / Overview
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	The Road to Real Office Coffee Solutions
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Energy Savings in Compressed Air Production
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Pre-Press Right on your Desktop
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Add Life to your Presentation
Oct. 01 (Sat.)	
11:00am - 11:45am	Ultratech Revolutionary AO1 2005
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	The Power of Electronic Scales Leads You to a Successful Business
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Benefits of Knowing Your Compressed Air Usage

ROOM B

Oct 01 (Sat.)	
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	[illegible] Control & Calibration [illegible]
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	Sticker Making Made Easy
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	The Essentials of Printing, Packaging & Recycling

ROOM C

Sept. 30 (Fri.)	
1:00 pm - 2:45 pm	Zuken-Cadstar EDA PCB Design
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Manage Enterprise Communications

Above seminar schedules are subject to change without prior notice

ROOM B Philippine Welding Society (PWS)

Sept. 28, 2005 (Wed.) 1:30pm - 5:00pm	Presentation of the Japan Welding Engineering Society's International Welding Engineer Certification Scheme for local Adoption and Implementation by PWS & JWES. Attendance is open to All PWS Members. Technical Resource Speakers: Prof. Dr. Takashi Miyata - President JWES Dr. Hirokazu Nomura - Senior Technical Advisor, JWES Prof. Dr. Kunio Takahashi - JWS, Tokyo Institute of Technology Dr. Yasuo Anzou - Secretary General, JWES Mr. Ang Chee Pheng - Secretary General Asian Welding Federation, President, Singapore Welding Society
Sept. 29, 2005 (Thurs.) 11:00am - 12:00nn 1:30pm - 4:00pm	Meeting by JWES and PWS and other key Resource Persons of the Academe, Government & Industry on the JWES-IWE Certification Scheme
Sept. 30, 2005 (Friday) [illegible]	Presentation of the ISO International Standards on Welding and Allied Processes and its Implementation as a National Standard. Technical Resource Speaker: Ms. Teresita Gaerlan del Rosario - Trade and Industry Development Specialist, DTI Bureau of Product Standards. Attendance is open to all PWS members.
1:30pm - 5:00pm	14th General Membership Convention, 12th Election of Officers, 11th PWS-TESDA National Welding Skills Tournament Awarding Ceremony. Attendance open to All PWS Members. Guest Speaker: Mr. Eduardo R. Lakbay - Deputy Executive Director for Industry Development MIRDC

All activities are free for all PWS members. Non-members can register as PWS members for Php 300.00 (1 Year membership fee)

ROOM C ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (OEMAP)

Sept. 28 (Wed.)	
1:00 pm - 2:45 pm	Automation in Machine Building in the Philippines
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Cognex Vision System
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Fusion UV System
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	ROHS Compliance and its Impact in Businesses
Sept. 29 (Thurs.)	
11:00 am - 5:00 pm	Energy Conservation in Pneumatics
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Software Tools for Designing Industrial Automation System
Sept. 30 (Fri.)	
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Proper Maintenance of Gear Motor and Gear Box
4:00 pm - 5:45 pm	Semiconductor Electronics Manufacturing Intelligence

ROOM D PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS AND SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION (PESSA)

Sept. 29 (Thurs.)	
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	A Seminar by Romma Industries
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Process Control for Electronic Assembly Industry
Sept. 30 (Fri.)	
11:00am - 11:45am	Insight on How to Develop a Process that Works on Lead Free Wave Soldering
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Developing a Reliable Lead Free SMT Assembly Process
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	Combined AOI / AXI and Bond Inspection
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	ROHS with RS

ROOM 1

Sept. 30 (Fri.)	
11:00am - 11:45am	A Seminar by TPT International Inc. (by invitation only)
1:45pm - 3:45pm	Hot Runner Solutions (by invitation only)
4:00pm - 4:45pm	Polystyrene Recycling in Metro Manila
5:00pm - 5:45pm	Plastics and the Environment
Oct. 1 (Sat.)	
11:00am - 11:45am	A Seminar by TPT International Inc. (by invitation only)
1:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Occupational Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme (OHSAS) 18000

STAGE AREA
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CEBU BARGE & TUG, INC.,
Applicant.
x--------------------------------x

CASE NO. CMRO 05-217
M/V YORKSHIRE

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant requests for Approval of Transfer of Ownership of Vessel M/V YORKSHIRE from Mr. Ferdinand M. Ong to Benito O. Chia, Jr. and from Benito O. Chia Jr. in favor of Cebu Barge & Tug Inc. with Change of Vessel's Name to M/V TASKMASTER.

The application will be heard by this Authority on October 07, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at MARINA Hearing room, Ground Flr., Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bldg., Corner 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City at which herein applicant shall present his/her/its evidence. Before the start of the actual hearing, a pre-trial conference shall be conducted in accordance with Rule of 6 of the Rules of Practice Instituting Summary Procedures under MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 74-A.

At least TEN (10) DAYS prior to the date of hearing. The applicant shall publish this Notice of Hearing once in a newspaper of regional circulation in the Philippines and serve by registered mail return slip or personal delivery copy of the application and of this Notice of Hearing to all affected parties as appearing in the attached list.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions on or before the date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any person to file his opposition on tiem and appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his/her/its right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 22nd day of September 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI--Sept. 27, 2005)

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INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Hydroelectric Power Complex consisting of the 100 MW Pantabangan Hydroelectric Power Plant and the 12 MW Masiway Hydroelectric Power Plant both located at Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija

(collectively, the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being privatized on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of one thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 1,000.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from October 12, 2005 until October 17, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	October 3 – November 25, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	October 19, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	To be announced to Interested Bidders at a later date by PSALM

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to two million U.S. Dollars (US$ 2,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Further details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Interested parties and bidders are required to comply with Philippine law at all times. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee
(PDI--September 27, 28, 29, 2005)

Pag-IBIG Fund
The Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, City of Makati

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT PAG-IBIG FUND MAKATI BRANCH OFFICES

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Civil Works (BAC-CW) intends to apply the sum of P 6,655,046.67 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Improvement works at Pag-IBIG Fund Makati Branch Offices. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Improvement works at Pag-IBIG Fund Makati Branch Offices. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of October 17, 2005 to the BAC-CW Secretariat at Room 704, 7/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. The BAC-CW Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the Pag-IBIG Fund Cashier. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: 1:30 p.m. of October 18, 2005 at Room 602, 6/F, Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unles otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A or R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 27, 2005.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-CW Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P 3,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 5:00 p.m. of October 27, 2005.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference (for eligibility) at 10:00 a.m. of October 6, 2005 and another Pre-bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 10:00 a.m. of October 26, 2005 at the following address: Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at Room 709, 7/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before November 11, 2005, 1:30 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on the same date and time at Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JAIME A. FABIANA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee-Civil Works

(PDI--Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, 2005)

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"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come..." ***Psalm 23:6***

Icasiano M. Sanvictores, Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord on
September 25, 2005 at the age of 68.

His wife **MILDRED**; children **MABEL** and **ANGIE, SHEILAH** and **ARNOLD, SHELLEY** and **PAUL** and **SIGMUND** and **MINA**; grandchildren **MAEKS, YONEL, JOEM, LARSY, MIGUEL, ANTONIO, JAIME, JILLIAN** and **PAULA**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Thursday, September 29, 2005, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the chapel.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

Pedro G. Villaflores

Former Director, Higher Education, Regional Office IV
peacefully joined our Lord on September 24, 2005
at the age of 74.

He is survived by his children **Carina & Rene**; **Ruel & Helen**; **Raul & Mina**; brother **Alex**, sister **Charing** and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, Sept. 28, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit
Announce the death of

SISTER LOURDES ZAFRA, S.Sp.S.

on September 25, 2005 at the age of 82
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit,
8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on
Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.
At the Convent of the Holy Spirit
8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow
At the Christ the King Cemetery
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City

Our Dearly Beloved

ISABELITA TESORO MAGPILY

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September.25, 2005 at the age of 57.

Her loving daughter **Mariliz**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Dr. Alberto Magpily & Dr. Rosario Magpily**; **Joey & Sonia Magpily**; nephews **Aries, Justin, Joel & Jeff**; niece **Mary Rose**; aunt **Emilia T. Mamplata**; cousins, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter's Church, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on September 29, 2005 at 9:30 A.M. at Recuerdo Memorial Garden, Quezon City.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Filipinas Pawnshop, Inc. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco Mla will sell all expired pledges of February and March 2005 on October 9, 2005 Sunday at 10:00 AM (Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioner)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Geothermal Complex consisting of the 275 MW Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant located in Tiwi, Albay and the 425.73 MW MakBan Geothermal Power Plant located in Laguna and Batangas Provinces

(collectively, the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being privatized on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 1,000.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from October 14, 2005 until October 19, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	October 3 – December 5, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	October 21, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	To be announced to Interested Bidders at a later date by PSALM

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Nine Million U.S. Dollars (US$ 9,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Further details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Interested parties and bidders are required to comply with Philippine law at all times.. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee
(PDI--September 27, 28, 29, 2005)

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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Goods and Services (BAC-GS), invites qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Item No.	Name of Projects (Description)	Approved Budget for the Contract	Cost of bid Documents (Non-Refundable)
I	Provision of Security Services at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007	P 96,038,400.00	P 15,000.00
II	Provision of Janitorial Services at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007	P 33,687,005.76	P 6,500.00
III	Provision of Postage/Freight Services for the transmittal of pouches and parcels to Pag-IBIG Fund Provincial Branches and various locations Worldwide for Y2006-Y2007	P 12,300,331.00	P 2,500.00
IV	Preventive Maintenance of Airconditioning Units installed at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007	P 3,292,200.00	P 1,000.00
V	Supply and Maintenance of Ornamental (Indoor) Plants at the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters and NCR Branches for Y2006-Y2007 (Lease Contract Basis)	P 2,318,688.00	P 500.00

Prospective bidders should have the experience in undertaking a similar project, within the required period specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for each project, with a contract amount of at least 50% of the approved budget of the project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted accordingly.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	ACTIVITIES					
Item No.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Opening of Bids (tentative)	Bid Evaluation	Post-Qualification	Notice of Award
I	Sept. 27, 2005	Oct.14, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 3, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 4-18, 2005	Nov. 19-25, 2005	Dec. 9, 2005
II	Sept. 27, 2005	Oct. 17, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 4, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 5-21, 2005	Nov. 22-28, 2005	Dec. 13, 2005
III	Sept. 27, 2005	Oct. 18, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 7, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 6-22, 2005	Nov. 23-29, 2005	Dec. 14, 2005
IV	Sept. 27, 2005	Oct. 19, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 8, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 7-23, 2005	Nov. 24-30, 2005	Dec. 15, 2005
V	Sept. 27, 2005	Oct. 21, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 9, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Nov. 10-24, 2005	Nov. 25 - Dec. 1, 2005	Dec. 16, 2005

The venue for the abovementioned Activigies shall be at Room 602, 6th Floor, Pag-IBIG Fund Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Ave., Makati City.

Bid Documents will be made available only to prospective bidders upon payment of the required fee to the Cash Division, Treasury Department, Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters. It may then be obtained from the Procurement Section, General Services 7th floor, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, Makati City upon payment of the corresponding fee.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Angeles P. Baleña, Jose Maria M. Diaz or Cesar V. Racoma at 811-42-82, 894-58-15 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
Senior Vice President, Technical Support
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI--Sept 27 & Oct. 4, 2005)

NFA Antique to sell Iron Fortified Rice

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) Antique provincial manager Procopio B. Trabajo II said that the agency will soon receive a total of 5,500 bags of US Iron Fortified Rice (IFR) which will be sold to the public through the agency's accredited retailers. This is in connection with the agency's Rice Fortification Program in compliance with Republic Act or the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000 which took effect on November 2004. As a prime mover of the grains industry, the NFA in coordination with the Department of Health (DoH), is already implementing in full swing its Rice Fortification Program launched in August 17, 2004. The program serves as the agency's vehicle for carrying out what is required of R. A. 8976. Fortification is the process of adding micro nutrient or micro nutrients to foods to increase its over-all nutritional value and maintain or improve the quality of the diet of a group, community, or a specific at-risk group. Aside from rice, the law calls for mandatory fortification of staples such as refined sugar and cooking oil with Vitamin A and wheat flour with Vitamin A and iron. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

GlobeSolutions, Qool Labs present the ultimate PDA phone

WITH THE EVER-INCREASING IMPORtance of mobile communication and information in business, enterprises often need to be at the forefront of new technologies. Now, GlobeSolutions and Qool Labs, a Singapore-based, new generation digital lifestyle technology company, has introduced the Qool QDA 700, the latest Palm-powered PDA phone that provides an array of versatile applications and solutions for every business need.

THE CUTTING-edge QDA 700 PDA phone, exclusively available through GlobeSolutions.

Gil Genio, head of Globe's enterprise business group, describes the QDA 700 as the "latest technological breakthrough that provides businesspeople with mobility solutions at the palm of their hand." The QDA 700 is a PDA smartphone powered by the latest and robust Palm Garnet 5.4 OS, packed with features such as expandable memory, 2.8" touch screen, 1.3 megapixel camera, and MP3 and MPEG4 player. It also has built-in POP3 and IMAP email, MS Excel and Word document reader, multi-tap input method and 'Email on the Go' via Globe GPRS to enable access to important messages even while on the go. Since it also has USB and Infrared connectivity and can be synchronized with Palm Desktop and MS Outlook, this handy gadget fits right into your busy work routine and allows more flexibility in addressing important business tasks. Exclusively available from GlobeSolutions, the QDA 700 Mobility Package even comes with specialized applications like sales force automation solutions and customizable enterprise mobility solutions to maximize the phone's functionality for corporate clients.

GlobeSolutions corporate business group head, Dan David, stresses that this cool new phone is an indispensable tool for business people on the go. "The GlobeSolutions and QDA 700 offering provides your company a full mobility package that sets a new benchmark for efficiency and productivity," he says. Benjamin Hwang, business development director of Qool Labs adds, "The QDA 700 is definitely the best value PDA phone in its class. We are very pleased to be working with Globe in bringing this innovation into the Philippine market."

The launch of the QDA 700 reaffirms GlobeSolutions' commitment to coming up with efficient and effective mobile communication solutions that make great things possible for business. For more information, call the GlobeSolutions hotline at 730-1999 or e-mail globesolutions@globetel.com.ph .

FROM left: Gil Genio, CEO of Innove Communications and head of Globe's enterprise business group; Qool Labs CEO, KH Lim and Benjamin Hwang, business development director of Qool Labs; and Harvey Libarnes, head of GlobeSolutions business development industry solutions group at the launch of the QDA 700.

ISUZU PHILS JOINS SPORTS TRUCK SHOW

The 2005 Caltex Delo Sport Truck Custom Car and Bike Show will have Isuzu Phils Corp as one of its major exhibitor. The company will display several of the hot selling Isuzu D-Max in stock and also in dressed-up versions customized by Autozone, Starbright Body Kits and A-Toy Body Kits. The show is forthcoming this Sept. 28 to Oct. 2 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City and organized by Trade Show International Inc (TSI). Shown during the contract signing are (seated from left): Mariles Villar, TSI vice president; Sophie delos Santos, TSI president, shaking hands with Ken Takashima, Isuzu Phils vice president for marketing and sales and Myrna Gonzales, Isuzu Phils department manager for dealer marketing and sales.

BREASTFEEDING BECOMES LYN

As an advocate of breastfeeding, Lyn Ching volunteers her time and support to a breastfeeding organization tied up with the Department Of Health (DOH). During the breastfeeding week last month, she and the other advocates were busy promoting breastfeeding through activities like talks and photo exhibits in different malls. She took her baby along as living proof of the positive benefits of breastfeeding. Lyn is so dedicated to breastfeeding that she even breastfeeds her baby in public. It certainly helps that she takes Pro-Lacta, a malunggay supplement in capsule form that helps increase breast milk production. Malunggay is a local vegetable rich in Beta Carotene, Vitamin A, Calcium, Ascorbic Acid, Phosphorus, Iron, Thiamin and Riboflavin. The malunggay in Pro-Lacta is organically cultivated and nurtured and processed into capsules in an ISO Certified pharmaceutical facility. Clinical trials conducted on breastfeeding mothers revealed a significant increase in breast milk production associated with the use of malunggay. Lyn started to take Pro-Lacta 10 days before her due date. She took 3 capsules per meal or 9 capsules a day for 3 to 4 months. And boost her breast milk production it did. For inquiries, you may call Altermed Hotline at 411-9907. Available at all Mercury Drugstores and other leading drugstores nationwide.

M&S RAFFLE WINNER

On the culmination of its summer promo, Marks & Spencer - in cooperation with Ten Knots Development Corp - is taking another lucky shopper on a vacation of a lifetime to El Nido Resorts in Palawan. Shane L. Roberto (3rd from left), winner of the 2nd and final draw held last July 21, will enjoy a 3-day, 2-night holiday package at Lagen Island Resort inclusive of roundtrip airfare for two persons. The promo was an exclusive treat for M&S Text-link or e-Link Members who shopped for a minimum P2,000 single-receipt purchase. The prize was awarded to the winner by Apple Lina, Ten Knots Development Corp PR and marketing manager, in the presence of Anton T. Huang (right), executive vice president of Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc (RMSI), the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the country, and Lucille Tolentino, RMSI merchandising division manager.

Bits & Clips

Godiva launches Club G

GODIVA SKIN STATION, A haven for total skin and body pampering, introduces its new exclusive club - Club G. The first 50 charter members to join Club G before Sept. 30, automatically get free Bonus Rewards worth up to P4,000 which they can redeem for products or services of their choice. Club G is an elite by-invitation-only membership club where members enjoy huge discounts of up to 60 percent on skin and body treatments, plus numerous rewards. There are three membership options, Silver, Gold or Platinum, which will entitle members to package discounts of 50 percent, 55 percent and 60 percent respectively, plus the free Bonus Rewards for the first 50 charter members. For more information, contact Karla Perez at 0921-7687387 and Emmalyne Prado at 0920-3417505 or call 751-6140 (Makati Bel-Air branch) and 939-1105 (SM Fairview branch).

Catch the Power Fever

THE BROADCAST COMMUNICATION 130 CLASS on Program Planning and Development of the College of Mass Communication, UP Diliman invites you to Power Fever: A Fantaserye Fun Fest, featuring the program launch of LonggaFRIENDS, one super spoof of a sitcom with a fantaserye twist, and Matchbox, a light drama about building relationships. Happening tonight at 7 p.m., at the College of Mass Communication Parking Lot. Featuring Slowdive and other rockin' surprise bands. Admission is absolutely free.

A festival of fun and finds

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL TREATS HABITUÉS TO A FIesta of sights and shopping at the Home, Appliance and Techno Festival at the second level Carousel Court ongoing until Sept. 30. Sure to delight home enthusiasts is the Home and Furniture Fair, featuring home and interior displays by the Interior Design students of Assumption College and St. Scholastica. The exhibit will be held simultaneously at the second level main entrance, third level Chef's Avenue and fourth level Cinema Square. More home and furniture selections will be showcased at the Home Bazaar, Antiques Fair and Décor Plus at the mall's fourth level and at Treasure Trove on the third level. Meanwhile, techies can browse through an assortment of appliances and gadgets at the Appliance and Techno Fair. A series of workshops will also be held for hobbyists and first-timers eager to flex some creative muscle. Festival Supermall is at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa. For inquiries, call 850-3514.

Charmee calls for change

BEING A WOMAN IN OUR CHALLENGING TIMES calls for radical change. Radical savings and belt-tightening measures that is. Especially when you're a student on allowance, a mom on a household budget or a working woman who wants the best buy. Don't just settle for what you're used to, because Charmee has something better. Charmee Feminine Protection products provide excellent quality napkins, pantyliners and feminine wipes at a price that suits you. Charmee Feminine Protection products are available at leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide. Try Charmee All Flow Pack for your monthly needs, 18 pesos for 8 pads. For everyday protection, try Charmee Regular Unscented Liners for only P8.50 for 8 pads and Charmee Feminine wipes at P19.50 for 10 pulls. Now's the time to take feminine protection seriously and Charmee gives you the chance to make that happen.

THE LEGACY BAGS AWARD

An Ayala Land property has received a well-deserved accolade in the recently concluded Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards. The Legacy at Montgomery Place has been awarded the 'Most Outstanding Single-Detached Houses' honor under its Metro Manila category. For further details on The Legacy at Montgomery Place regarding newly launched unit types and payment schemes, call 728-7000 or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph. Shown are (center) ALI project development officer, Pickles Farolan-Miranda receiving the awards with Dr. Felix M. Lao Jr. Ph.D and Dra. Corazon PB. Claudio.

Tips on managing your baby's colds

THE COMPLAINT OF COLDS USUALLY ranges from a simple "halak", a noisy, reverberating breathing from the chest or a runny nose consisting of thin or thick mucus secretions. Mothers usually get alarmed when the thick mucus secretions become yellowish which is due to inflammatory reaction. It does not necessarily require the immediate giving of antibiotics. In fact, the secretion of mucus from specialized cells in the nasopharynx is a natural immune response to entrap germs, allergens, toxic fumes from the environment. However, those remain stagnant in the nostril can partially block the nasal passage, which can impair the baby's breathing and can cause restlessness and disturbed sleep.

Cold is often treated with medications such as systemic decongestant like phenylpropanolamine, antihistaminics and antibiotics. But are these safe and effective particularly for viral colds? Phenylpropanolamine can cause irritability, loss of appetite and disturbed sleep. Antihistaminics, on the other hand, can cause the mucus to dry up in the nostrils. Antibiotics are likewise not effective against viral colds.

Based on a meta-analysis of six clinical studies on the rational treatment of upper respiratory infections (URI) by Alpern and Louie, the rational treatment of a "child with symptoms of URI less than 10 days, who is well-appearing and has no signs and symptoms of bacterial pneumonia" is to provide only symptomatic relief that consists of:

- Emouraging fluid hydration
- Antipyretic use for fever
- Cool mist humidification
- Nasal saline with the use of bulb syringe nasal aspirator for babies.

Based on scientific evidences, the new paradigm in the treatment of colds, particularly URI, is to avoid the routine use of these ineffective medications. The less you give, the better. Your doctor will decide if antibiotic is needed for a bacterial complication of colds, such as ear infection or bronchitis/bronchopneumonia.

A simple home treatment then for colds is to encourage fluid intake, to give antipyretic for fever and to use a nasal saline solution, like Salinase, to frequently moisturize the thick mucus in the nostrils. A bulb ear/nose aspirator with a long nozzle can then be used to suck the loose mucus secretions.

This simple low-cost home treatment will definitely provide a natural physiologic relief of colds in babies and also huge savings for the family.

UNILAB
GAWAD KALINGA
60 YEARS
60 HO

UNILAB DONATES 60 HOUSES ON ITS 60TH YEAR

Inspired by its corporate social philosophy and to help accelerate Gawad Kalinga (GK)'s community building mission, United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the leading pharmaceutical and healthcare company in the country, recently turned over P3 million pesos for building 60 houses at GK Arkong Bato (AB) in Kapitolyo, Pasig City. These are in addition to the 32 houses built earlier by Unilab at the same site, including a three-storey multipurpose hall that is now used as the community's classroom, IT room and library. Unilab chair Jocelyn Campos Hess (seated center) is joined by children of some of the Arkong Bato beneficiaries Also in photo are (from left) GK AB head Bingoy Lorenzana, AB Kapitbahayan president Chris Asibal, GKCom head Maria Montelibano, AB Kapitbahayan secretary Elma dela Isla, AB Kapitbahayan vice president Melchor Pineda, GK board member Dr. Joe Yamamoto, Unilab SVP and senior executive officer Ray de Guzman, Unilab SVP for organization development Imelda Centeno and Unilab director for corporate affairs Alberto Manlapit.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◆ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◆ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◆ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◆ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

What type of overeater are you?

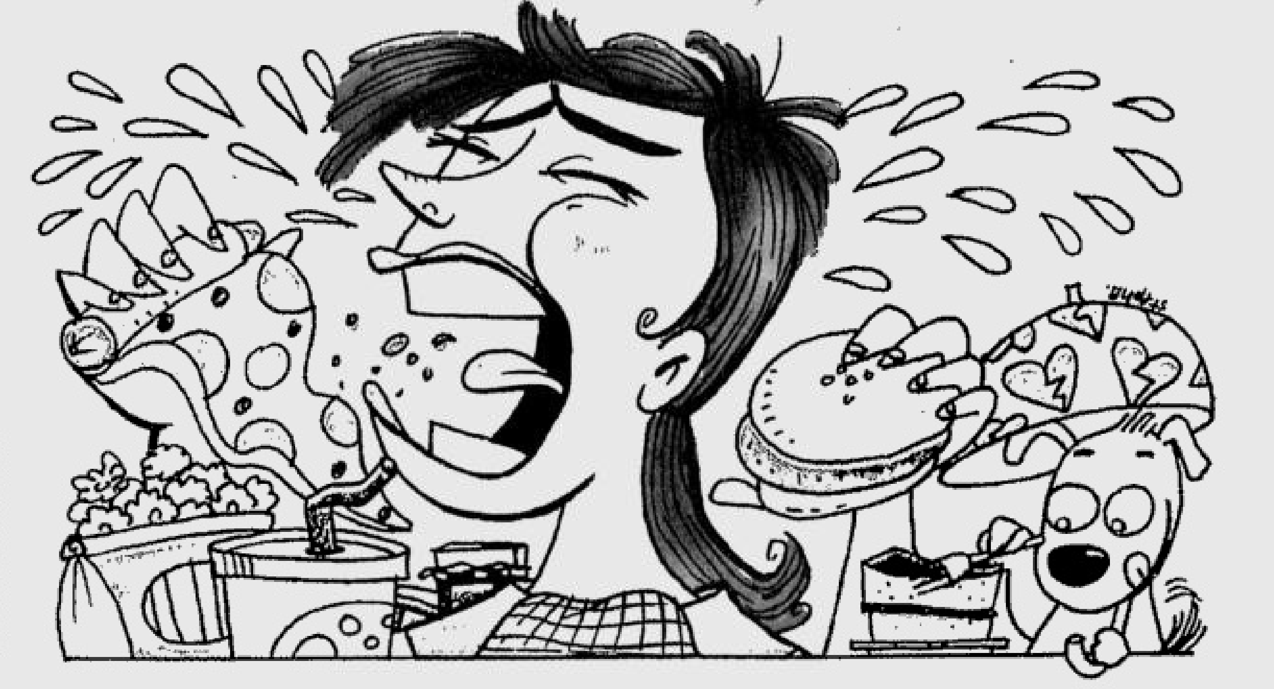


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

A TRIGGER FOOD SETS OFF overeating. It is specific to each person. Chocolate candy might be your trigger food while pizza might prompt your best friend to forget moderation.

According to psychologist Stephen Gullo, the best defense against trigger foods is to not take even one bite. These foods are so enticing and tempting to you that you cannot allow yourself even a small portion because you can't control yourself.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

As Gullo says, "If you don't begin, you don't have a problem."

Trigger behaviors, meanwhile, are eating patterns that are "habitual and often almost unconscious behavioral patterns that lead to the repeated abuse of the trigger foods that make you fat."

In his book, "Thin Tastes Better," Gullo lists five types of trigger behaviors and what you can do about them.

Picker

If you are a Picker, you are not alone. Gullo says 99 percent of his clients love finger foods of any kind. They can consume thousands of calories without realizing it. He says, "More people have gained weight from what they eat before, after and in between meals than from what they consume in the meal itself."

Pickers need to control their fingers to control their weight, Gullo says. Here are some of his tips:

- Don't eat while standing up because it means you are not paying attention to what you are eating, which leads to loss of control.
- Don't eat while cooking. There is a big difference between tasting the food and eating half of what you cook. Stay in the kitchen only for cooking. Don't hang out there if you are a Picker.
- Don't eat while on the phone. Not only is it rude, but you also are not conscious of what and how much you are eating.
- Eat only food that requires the use of utensils. If finger food is your problem, it's a threat to your control.
- Use your non-dominant hand to pick up finger food at a cocktail party. Gullo recommends keeping a drink in your dominant hand so you will have to use your other hand.
- In restaurants, beware of the bread basket. Pickers can unconsciously consume excess calories while waiting for the main meal. Gullo suggests having the basket removed or asking your companions to keep it on their side of the table.

Prowler

Pickers and Prowlers have a lot in common except that Prowlers never sit down for a meal. They graze throughout the day claiming they don't have time to eat or they feel they are eating less by prowling for their food.

Gullo says the tips for Prowlers work also for Pickers:

- Don't skip meals. Eat real food, not snack food all day long.
- Sit down while eating. Gullo says, "A meal isn't a meal if it's eaten on the run, or at a counter, or in the car on the way to work."
- Focus on your meals. Don't eat while doing something else like watching television or trying to finish your work.
- Beware of the 10-minute problem. Gullo says Prowlers are most weak the first 10 minutes when they arrive home, at a party or a restaurant. It is before the main meal is served that many calories are consumed unknowingly.

Finisher

Gullo says Finishers belong to the "clean plate" club. He describes Finishers as people who still hear their mother's words: "It's sinful to waste food," "Think of the starving children in China," and "Always get what you pay for."

Gullo says childhood attitudes need to be addressed and challenged for Finishers to change their behavior. But two practical tips can also help.

- Don't overload your plate. If it's on your plate, you will feel obligated to eat it.
- Eat more slowly. You will be satisfied with less and still feel like you were a "good" girl or boy for finishing your food.

Hoarder

Hoarders are the opposite of Pickers and Prowlers, according to Gullo. They eat as if they are on an installment plan. They hardly eat during the day, skipping meals and ignoring the hunger signals from their body, but at nighttime, they eat all the calories and more because they are so ravenous.

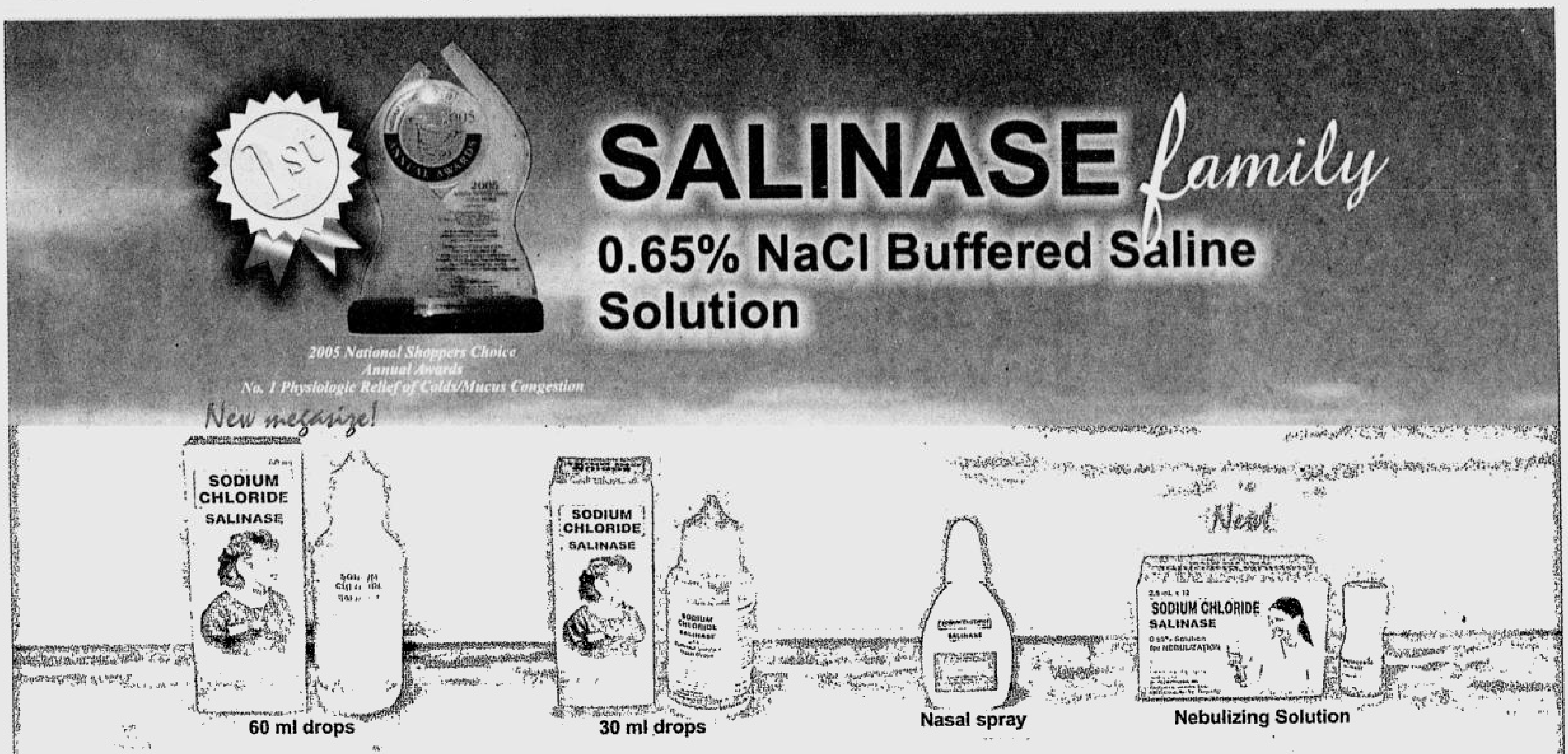
Gullo recommends that Hoarders stick to a fixed meal schedule to spread their calories around.

Food Therapist

Emotional eaters, Food Therapists eat in response to their emotions, positive or negative. When they are happy, they eat. When they are sad, they eat. When they are bored, they eat. Gullo puts it this way: "When the going gets tough, they stuff."

For these people, food is the only substance of comfort they use to deal with their emotions.

WHAT/ C3



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PAL'S Jaime Arturo Viola, Barbara Aragon and John Tan

ENJOYING the chic new lounge are PAL's Ismael Gozon, Sonny Pascual, Joey de la Cruz, Francisco Yngente IV and Teddy Ong

PAL'S Tina de Vera; PAL's manager for editorial services, corporate communication department, Rene Soliman; and Alfred Adriano

We say 'Mabuhay' for a fantastic job

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

OUR FAVORITE PAL, PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, did a major facelift of its airport lounge for business travelers who always look for a place where they can chill out for a few hours, *palanggas*, while waiting for their flights.

PAL did a fantastic job that almost blew my socks off as *moi* breezed in to a bright, cozy, superbly stocked place equipped with the latest in technology, *palanggas*. It's an oasis of calm and efficiency amid the hustle and bustle of the airport.

The Philippine Airlines' new, fantastic, eye-catching Domestic Mahuhay Lounge at the Naia Centennial Terminal 2 was thoroughly redesigned and refurbished by renowned, talented interior designers, sisters Ivy and **Cynthia Almario**, no less.

The huge world-class lounge was formally dedicated by hot, young Tourism Secretary **Joseph Ace Durano**, together with Naia's hardworking GM **Alfonso Cusi** and PAL's hotshot mega president **Jaime Bautista**, *palanggas*.

The dazzling Mabuhay Lounge "represents the best that PAL has to offer," said Jaime B. "It's our commitment to our premium customers, who have come to expect a superior product from PAL."

Walking into the redesigned version will certainly make you say "wow."

The Almario gals set about reconfiguring the buffet and refreshments area, the busiest part of the lounge. Before, the food table was restricting the flow of people. The designers came up with a coffee shop-style "island" setup.

"We space-planned it so that the buffet table 'floats' in the middle of the room and people simply move around it as they choose their snacks. Now, everything is happening around the buffet table," the gals told us with pleased smiles, *palanggas*.

The fab Mabuhay Lounge comes equipped with some of the most useful amenities for business travelers. It has wide, flat 42-inch plasma television sets; a business center with telephones, fax machine and personal computers with free, unlimited Internet access. You name it, the lounge has it.

And for that chic finishing touch, the Almario gals placed oversized vases of native Philippine orchids in key spots of the lounge.

"Flowers have become sort of our trademark," said Cynthia. "It's our nature; a woman's touch can sometimes make a room cool and relaxed."

It's crystal clear, *palanggas*, that the lounge was designed to cater to the tastes of today's modern, global business traveler.

It definitely reflects our national flag carrier—warm and bright, always with a welcoming smile. It's so Philippine Airlines, our very own cool soulmate and pal, *palanggas*.

PHILIPPINE Airlines hotshots. DOT consultant Ram Antonio, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, Naia GM Alfonso Cusi, PAL president Jaime J. Bautista, vice president for marketing Felix Cruz and special assistant to the chair Emilio Yu

Must-go-to event

In line with the campaign for breast cancer awareness, young women crusaders, **Ria Romero** and **Sigalit Djemal**, with the help of brilliant breast cancer surgeon Dr. **Diana Cua-Balcells**, are set to mount a must-go-to event at Rustan's classy Essenses at, take note gals, 4-7 p.m., Sept. 28, *palanggas*.

This important happening will have the renowned Dr. **James M. Ford**, no less, as main guest speaker. Dr. Ford from Stanford University Hospital specializes in total breast oncology and cancer genetics. He will give a short talk on "Genetic Testing in Breast Cancer: Who, What, When and Why."

His talk will be followed by a Q&A. The audience will be able to participate and interact on the subject of why breast cancer is affecting more women.

The incidence of breast cancer in the Philippines is reportedly the highest in Asia*palanggas*. And, because of this, the full support of all you women for this absolutely important event will be so appreciated.

So drop everything, gals, and help make this project a huge success. It is, after all, for your own health, *palanggas*.

'Big Tic'

It was one of those partying nights. I dashed to the unbeatable hot, hot Embassy not to party, *palanggas*, but to check out what all the buzz was about. Well, it was the intimate Press Fossil Dinner at Embassy's chic club which was set up like a cavernous living room (all superbly organized by that young PR GP Reyes, no less). Fossil's hotshot **Lorenz Manalang** presented Big Tic, Fossil's latest timepieces for guys and gals with the patented Big Tic motion technology of animated dials.

Being a watch freak and owner of two Fossils, it was interesting to find out that, with Fossil's successful worldwide launch, the new hot line has been flying off shelves in stores everywhere. Now, even upscale fashion labels like Emporio Armani, D&G, Marc Jacobs, Diesel, plus others like them, have entrusted their watch divisions to the Fossil teams, *palanggas*.

This is due in no small part to the *tres* lovable and popular spokesperson Stan, the BigTic Robot, dahlings, who's seen everywhere—on subways, building facades and store windows. It "communicates Fossil's mission of engineering intelligent design with progressive and vintage style."

We were among the lucky ones who were gifted with a super special-edition all-steel robot that walks, sits and do a few other poses. It is half-a-foot tall and has a scrolling clock on its chest. The robot won't be sold in stores so it is certainly a collector's item, *palanggas*.

After the yummy dinner superbly prepared by Embassy's star chef, **Fernando Aracama**, Fossil treated us some more to a dance party. Top DJs **Paolo Maralit** and **David Jacob**, and Embassy's resident DJ **Martin Pulgar** rocked the place till we dropped—at past 3 a.m., *palanggas*.

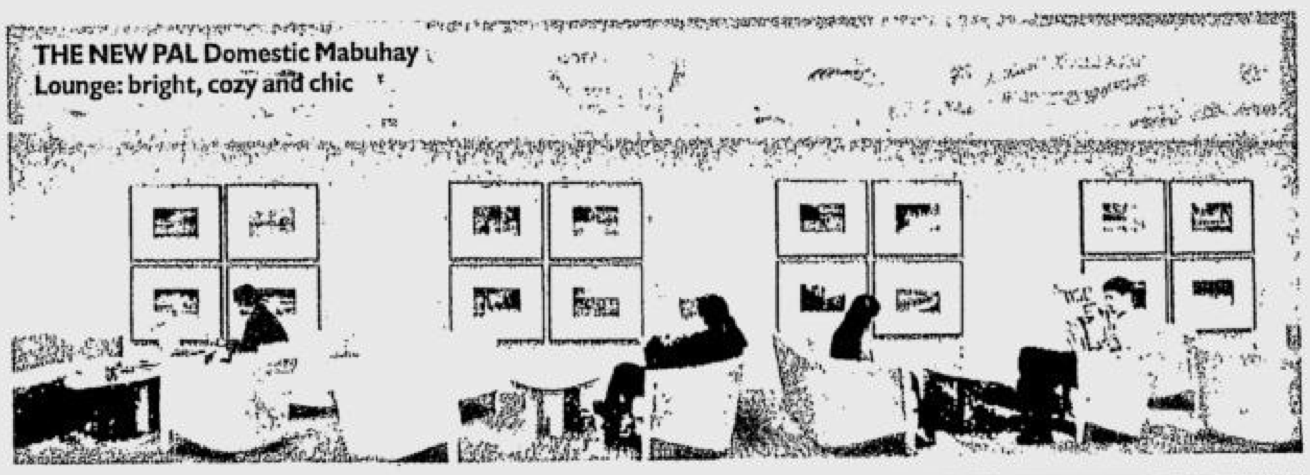
The new awesome Big Tic Watch is at the Fossil store at Glorietta 4 and in all L-Time Studio branches. And, hey, you get free entrance to Embassy on all Fridays of September before midnight when you wear your Fossil watch. Now that's so cool.

PAL president Jaime J. Bautista slices the cake as Debbie Cuyegkeng, Brian Advincula (partly hidden), Mariza de Luzuriaga, Teddy Ong, Emilio Yu, Barbara Aragon, Annabelle Tan-Go and Eileen Galindez watch.

BUSINESSDAY'S COO Myla M. Maru and CEO Marie Munoz

TALENTED designing sisters Cynthia Almario and Ivy Almario

PAL'S cyber smart southern lady Babylou Afzelius


THE NEW PAL Domestic Mabuhay Lounge: bright, cozy and chic

JENNI Epperson with Stan, the BigTic Robot

DR. JAMES M. Ford of the Stanford University Hospital

MODELS show off Fossil's latest hip collection

PARTYING sisters Vicky and Rosario Herrerra

EMBASSY'S cool, good-looking main man Jo Herrerra

FOSSIL'S main man Lorenz Manalang and MTV VJ Mariel Rodriguez

AJ Eigenman and Denise Laurel

PAOLO Villavicencio and Nicole Hernandez

COLBY Miller, Geneva Cruz and the man, KC Montero

CIVIC-ORIENTED Sigalit Djemal, breast cancer surgeon Dr. Diana Cua-Balcells and achiever Ria Romero

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Invisible causes of illness

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A DERMATOLOGIST friend told me she had been getting sick lately, but doctors couldn't seem to find any specific cause. Her lawyer husband had also been suffering from all sorts of illness.

She said during the recent stormy weather, many trees in their village fell on parked cars. Ever since they transferred to that place, all sorts of negative things happened to them.

When I asked her where they were lived, she mentioned a well-known upscale and beautiful hilly subdivision in Metro Manila where many wealthy Filipinos and foreigners reside. I was shocked! I didn't know she lived there.

No wonder she'd been having so many health problems, despite being a doctor of medicine who was also very knowledgeable about alternative healing modalities, including traditional Chinese medicine.

"Don't you know," I told her, "that the place you are staying in is full of highly negative and vicious elementals? I know one family who encountered a series of misfortunes after moving to that place."

I told her of a former classmate's wife who developed breast cancer and, later, he himself underwent a triple heart bypass operation forcing him to give up a budding political career. When I suggested to him to move his family elsewhere, he only politely smiled at me.

Later I learned that several people developed cancer after moving to that village. Recently, some houses burst into flames under mysterious circumstances. Various apparitions and paranormal phenomena had been reported all over the village.

No one took any definite action on these things because nobody believed there was a connection between illness and the invisible creatures inhabiting the place.

There are, of course, many causes of illness or the reversal of fortunes. But, if we cannot find a rational or scientific explanation for it, we have to look elsewhere for a possible explanation. And one possible explanation, although hard to believe, is the intervention of the spirit world.

"Surely, you don't expect me to believe such nonsense?" one business executive said to me. "Of course, I don't," I replied. But I told him anyway because he asked for my opinion. I didn't know he was a member of a highly conservative but militant fundamentalist Christian organization that did not believe in spirits, paranormal phenomena or psychic powers.

But what I'm talking about is not a question of belief but of fact. And failure to distinguish between the two can lead to a wrong conclusion or even to tragic consequences. As the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard pointed out, "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't so. The other is to refuse to believe what is so."

Let me cite an example. Ten years ago, I was invited to speak at a conference of the Asian Bankers Association. During lunch, the Filipino president of the association asked me, "Do you believe in *dwendes*?"

"Yes," I replied, "do you?" He said he also did. When I asked him why, he told me the following fascinating story.

"When I got married," he began, "I rented a house in old Sta. Mesa because I wanted a big yard for gardening. One day, while in the garden, I noticed a big mound of earth. Thinking it was a termite colony, I destroyed it completely. Immediately after this, I developed canker sores all over my body. They were itchy and foul smelling. I went from one dermatologist to another and they prescribed all sorts of medication… but nothing worked. I had this condition for two months.

"One day, I took a vacation in my home province, Pangasinan. My grandmother saw me and asked what happened to me. After telling her my story she said what I destroyed was not a termite colony but the home of the *lamang lupa*.

"She instructed me to make an offering of food, softdrinks, alcoholic beverage and cigarettes, putting them at the spot I destroyed. She also gave me a prayer to recite at a certain time facing a specific direction. I did everything my grandmother told me. And, believe it or not, within 24 hours my canker sores dried up completely and never recurred."

The man who told me this was a well-known former bank president and now a government official. He told me not to reveal his name for fear that others might consider him naïve for believing in such things as *dwendes* and *lamang lupa*. But I told him this was not a question of belief but of fact. Negative spirits could really cause illness.

Correction: In last week's column, the passage "our surgeons can open up the body with bare hands" should have read "psychic surgeons."

Note: I will be conducting a two-day Inner Mind Development Seminar Oct. 1-2 at Monte Vista Resort, Mimosa Clark Field, Angeles City. Interested parties may contact Riza Lim at 0917-8436043.

Next week: Effects of harmful earth rays on health

What type of overeater are you?

From page C1

Food Therapists need to find non-food ways to comfort themselves—a massage, talking to a friend, taking up a craft or hobby, or listening to music. Food Therapists may also need a real therapist to help them deal with their emotional needs.

Gullo writes, "Calories cannot make you happy. Food cannot resolve stressful situations. Food will not teach you new skills to deal with stress. It will not repair your relationships. Instead, it will block your development and make you dependent on an external substance to cope."

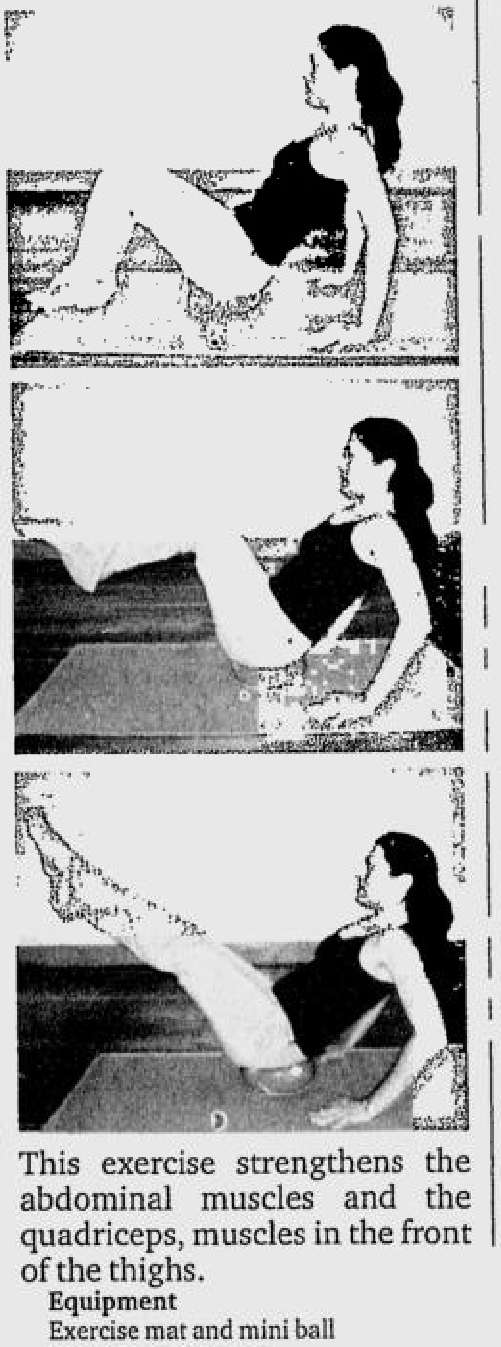
He adds, "As long as your eating is tied to your emotions, you will never achieve a stable weight. Your weight will change as often as your emotions do. And any diet—no matter how sound—will be as futile as trying to build a castle in the sand. It will be swept away with the next wave of emotion."

Note: The 3rd Philippine Parenting Convention will be held at the Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan, on Oct. 1. Call 4354281 or 4340139. E-mail ppc_secretariat@yahoo.com or visit www.theparentingcompany.com.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bend and stretch on mini ball



This exercise strengthens the abdominal muscles and the quadriceps, muscles in the front of the thighs.

Equipment

Exercise mat and mini ball

Exercise technique

1. Sit and balance on the mini ball with your knees bent, feet on the floor slightly apart. Lean back supporting yourself with your hand behind you.
2. Tighten your abs and raise your knees until your calves are parallel to the floor. This is the starting position.
3. Extend your legs by contracting the front of the thighs and by tightening and stabilizing the abs.
4. Return to the starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips

1. Exhale as you straighten the legs; inhale as you bend the knees.
2. Keep the shoulders relaxed and away from the ears.
3. The technique described above is for advanced exercisers.
4. Beginners: Do only step one. Lean back and keep your feet on the floor. This is enough of a challenge for your abs.
5. Intermediate: Do steps one and two. Lift and lower the knees without straightening the legs.

Repetitions

Do 10 repetitions.

Dengue, SARS, Hepatitis, AIDS, Trangkaso, Herpes, Beke, Tigdas, Bulutong, Malaria...

Ang mga sakit na ito ay sanhi ng **Viruses.**

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Ref: Dr. Bruce Fife, Coconut Cures. 2005, page 47-53.

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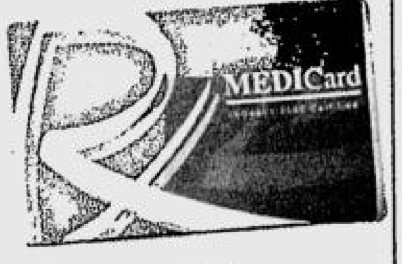
MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

Will excessive alcohol consumption lead to liver cancer ?

Like anything taken in excess, alcohol consumption beyond what is considered moderate inevitably has consequences on the liver as well as other organs. A person who consumes alcohol in excess for a long period of time (usually 10 years or more) increases his risk for developing fatty liver disease and later, liver cirrhosis. Cirrhosis, which can be described as the replacement of damage liver tissue with non-functional scar tissue, is irreversible once it has taken place. Once cirrhosis is established, the risk of developing liver cancer significantly increases. This progression to cirrhosis and liver cancer is difficult to predict and may occur earlier in some individuals due to a decreased tolerance for alcohol, immune status, concomittant diseases such as hepatitis B and C and individual differences in physiology.



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our five-year medical service provider from The Medical City, Dr. Salvador Clemente Magno Eustaquio. Doc Buddy specializes in IM-Gastroenterology. He earned his medical degree from UERM College of Medicine in 1992, followed by his residency training for Internal Medicine in 1996. He later had his subspecialization training in Gastroenterology in 1998. Dr. Eustaquio is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Gastroenterology and the Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy. He is married to Dr. Cherly Jasmin M. Eustaquio and blessed with a daughter.

MEDICard members may visit him for consultation services at The Medical City, Room 310, Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30am to 12noon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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IPL - The Blemish Eraser.

See The Results Right Away!

Want to know how famous celebrities manage to keep their skin looking fresh, glowing and flawless all the time? It's not just make-up. It's IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment!

Jenny Icasas

Real people who have tried this favorite treatment of the stars are now loving its amazing results! Here, they share their love affair with the 3-in-1 treatment for freckles, age spots and spider veins.

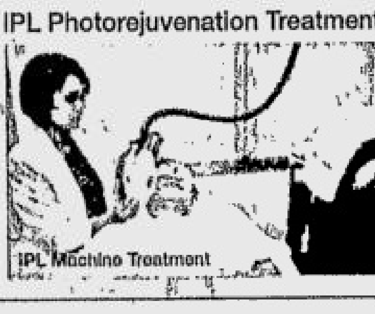
What makes IPL different from other treatments?

Dr. Ariel Torres: As an avid golfer, I had freckles from overexposure to the sun. I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me.

[illegible] of my very obvious spider veins. I'm never scared to [illegible] treatment with Facial Care Centre. I just know I'll be satisfied with the results.

What do you love most about IPL?

Janet Ley, Businesswoman: I love IPL because it really works! After only my second treatment, my freckles are gone! I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older so whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And people tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin.



IPL Machine Treatment

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment can banish freckles, age spots and spider veins on your face, neck, chest, back, hands, and anywhere that sun damage or photoaging shows. It is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to give you flawless skin without the sunburn-like appearance or long recovery period. IPL is the only 3-in-1 treatment that really works! No wonder it's everyone's favorite treatment.

Make IPL work wonders for your skin, too. Call the Facial Care Centre professionals now for your free consultation at 892-SKIN.

Good health through nutritional medicine

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

MOST PEOPLE ENJOY GENERALLY good health. But others do not realize their health status is below average.

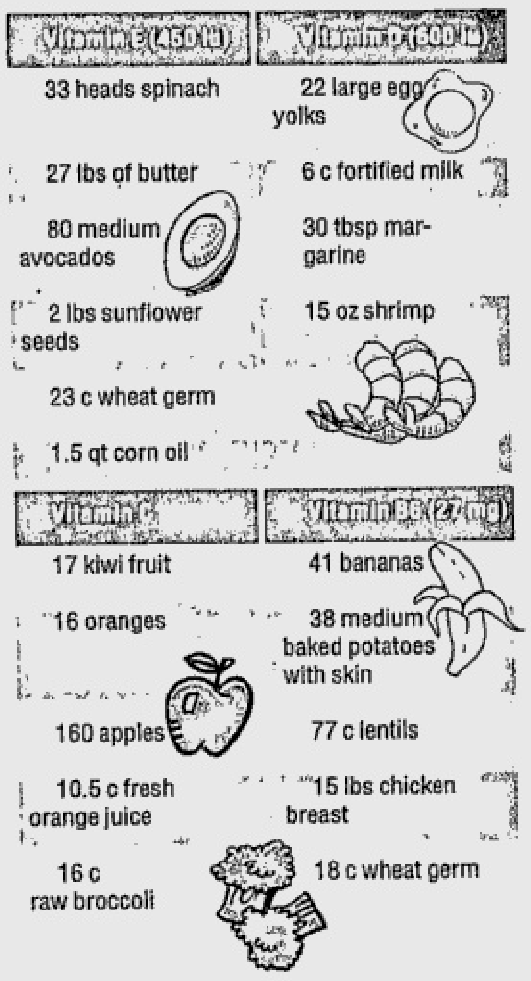
But it's never too late to reverse the situation.

Nutritional power

A not-so-new way to attain good health is through nutritional medicine. Before, the general attitude was to get the right nutrients from food without any vitamin supplements. Until now, some people still think vitamins are bad for the body or just a sheer waste of money. Not true.

The reason why supplementation is recommended by physicians today is because of the poor quality of modern life. The typical/popular diet consists of large quantities of protein, fat and carbohydrates. Plus high levels of salt and sugar.

More and more people today are eating less and less vegetables and fruits. The following graph gives you an idea of the amounts of food needed to pump into your systems the required vitamins and minerals.



Vitamin E (450 IU)	Vitamin D (600 IU)
33 heads spinach	22 large egg yolks
27 lbs of butter	6 c fortified milk
80 medium avocados	30 tbsp margarine
2 lbs sunflower seeds	15 oz shrimp
23 c wheat germ	
1.5 qt corn oil	

Vitamin C	Vitamin B6 (27 mg)
17 kiwi fruit	41 bananas
16 oranges	38 medium baked potatoes with skin
160 apples	77 c lentils
10.5 c fresh orange juice	15 lbs chicken breast
16 c raw broccoli	18 c wheat germ

This is just for starters. But this does not lessen the importance of a healthy eating regimen.

- 5-7 servings of vegetables/fruits
- 8-10 glasses of water
- dietary fiber (grains/cereals)
- carbohydrates, protein, fat

Did you know?

- The process of making white flour that removes the germ from the outer portion of the grain lessens by 80 percent the magnesium in flour.
- Meat processing removes 50-70 percent of vitamin B6.
- Cold storage removes 50 percent of vitamin C in tangerines.
- Storing asparagus for one week results in the loss of 90 percent of its vitamin C.
- Freshly cut salads/fruits lose approximately 50 percent of their nutritional value if left to sit for more than three hours.
- Vitamin C is sensitive to heat and cold. Prolonged storage weakens it.
- Freezing destroys more than 50 percent of meats's B vitamins.

Best Food list

- Best protein and fats come from vegetables and vegetable oils, avocados, olive oil, nuts, beans, soy, virgin coconut oil. They contain fats that will lower cholesterol levels.
- Best carbohydrates are from whole fruits and vegetables. An apple is considered better than apple juice. Avoid all processed foods.
- The next best protein and fat sources are cold-water fish like sardines, mackerel, tuna, salmon. Fats from these decrease inflammation in the body (the cause of disease).
- Next best protein comes from fowl.. The fat of the bird is found on top and not in the meat. Though it is considered saturated fat, if you remove the skin, you get lean meat.
- Worst fat is from red meat and dairy products. If you will eat meat, get the leanest cut of all. If you take eggs, try organic.

It is said if you follow this food guide, instead of stimulating the release of insulin, the body releases glucagons that use fat, lower blood pressure, decrease triglycerides and LDC (bad) cholesterol and raise HDC (good) cholesterols.

Best defense

If one eats healthy, a generous dose of antioxidants strengthens the defense against disease. The immune system needs help from an army consisting of vitamins C, B, E and A; and betacarotene as well as CoQ10, alpha-lipoic acid, bioflavonoids, glutathione, grape seed extract, selenium and zinc.

Studies have shown that these nutrients can heal and even improve a serious health condition. Optimize your body's natural defense system. Take a long hard look at your health today. Then take charge by making a stand.

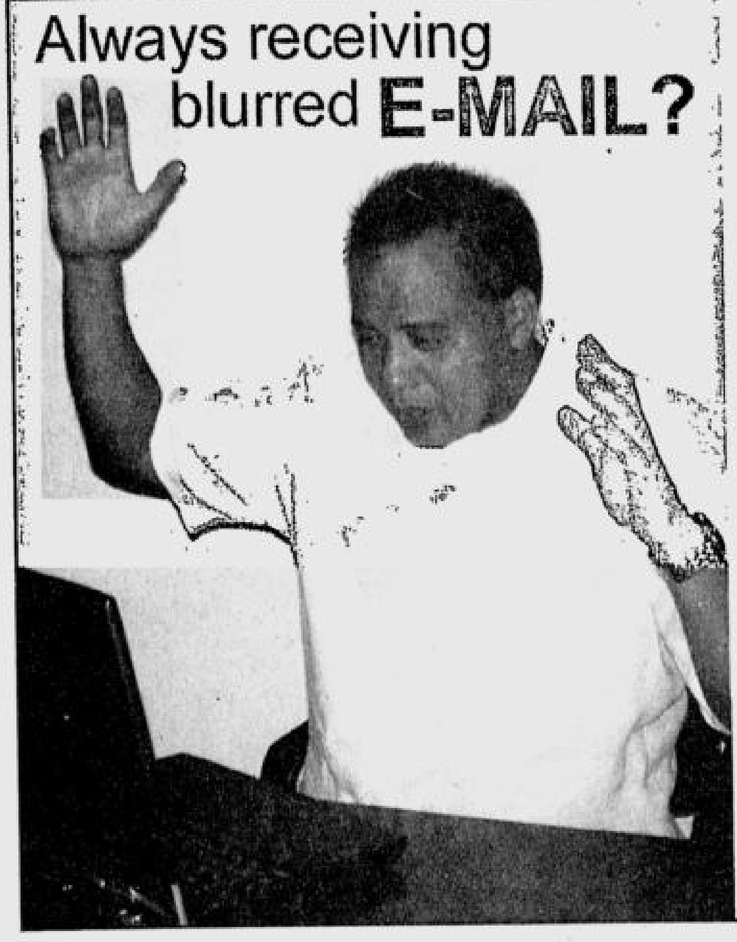
Best relax soak

In a tub of warm water, blend rose and lavender oils. Close your eyes. Play meditation music. Forget your worries.

Affirmation: "Today and always, I take charge of my body, my heart and my spirit. And so it is."

Love and light!

Reference: "What Your Doctor Doesn't Know about Nutritional Medicine May Be Killing You," by Ray D. Strand, MD, with Donna K. Wallace



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